

Economy slows quest for carbon neutrality

By Jaime Fuller
NEWS EDITOR

Though much has been done in the 18 months since the College announced its commitment to carbon neutrality in May 2007, new innovations will hold the key to upholding that promise by 2016 given current economic conditions, according to faculty and students already searching for creative ways for the College to meet its environmental goals.

The development that has had the biggest impact on reducing the College's carbon footprint was the decision to build a biomass plant to replace the old #6 oil-fueled heating plant. Once the biomass plant goes into operation beginning in Jan. 2009, it can potentially cut the College's greenhouse emissions by 12,500 metric tons per year. Benjamin F. Wissler Professor of Physics Rich Wolfson, who specializes in global warming research, believes this development is the biggest step

that Middlebury will take in going carbon neutral.

"The heating plant is the single largest producer of carbon emissions by a factor of 10," Wolfson said. "The biomass plant, once in operation, will cut the College's carbon emissions in half."

The next largest carbon emitters are the buildings on the periphery of campus, which are not heated by the main heating plant. Because these buildings will not be aided by the new biomass plant, the administration is thinking of other ways to make the outskirts of campus conform to the College's environmental ambitions. The solar panels to be installed at 107 Shannon Street are a prime example, but Wolfson believes that solar and wind power, though admirable, are not going to considerably affect the College's carbon footprint.

"People think that by putting up lots of solar panels and windmills for electricity we'd solve a lot



Andrew Ngeow

Vt. mostly uses nuclear and hydroelectric energy, not wind and solar energy.

of problems," he said, "but Vermont gets most of its electricity from nuclear and hydroelectric energy, which has virtually no carbon emissions. If we were in Ohio, it would make a big difference because we would be getting most of our elec-

tricity from coal."

The source of carbon emissions that will prove most troublesome for the College to neutralize is faculty travel, which because of Middle-

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Programs abroad try to catch up

By Jack Lysohir
MANAGING EDITOR

The Office of International Programs and Off-Campus Study, as well as the Sustainability Integration Office, have begun a yearlong effort to assess the environmental practices of the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad. Director of Sustainability Integration Jack Byrne and Assistant Director of International Programs and Off-Campus Study Stacey Woody Thebodo are leading the Sustainability Assessment Project.

The Project will analyze the sustainable practices of the C.V. Starr-Middlebury schools, beginning with the schools in Spain. Thebodo wrote in an e-mail that "students and faculty are working to develop or adapt a sustainability assessment tool that helps define what sustainability in Schools Abroad means, and that helps each School evaluate its own status with regard to the definition."

"The plan is to see how this research develops over the course of the 08-09 academic year, then the Directors of the Schools Abroad will meet next summer to assess the project and figure out next steps and how to implement this in other sites," she added.

This comprehensive study of the environmental practices of the C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad comes in the wake of major changes in environmental policies at the College. In May 2007, the

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tion and Demolition Contractors, which include asking the important question: "What can be reused right on site for new construction?"

Motivated by the desire to obtain LEED certification, the architects and builders had to demonstrate that the building met numerous criteria in each of five categories, including: sustainable site, water effi-

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Hillcrest earns LEED platinum certification

By James Kerrigan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In mid-October, The Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest became just the nation's seventh building to earn The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum status, the system's highest level of certification. The announcement publicly recognizes the College's decade-long emphasis on "building green," an essential ingredient in the its commitment to sustainability.

"This recognition is a credit to the creative energy of our faculty, staff, students and the architect who had the vision to transform a farmhouse into an advanced environmental facility while preserving its historic value and character," said President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz in a Nov. 3 press release.

Asher Burns-Burg '05.5, while a student in Luce Professor of Inter-

national Environmental Economics Jon Isham's Special Topics in Environmental Economics senior seminar, initiated the idea as a part of his final project three years ago. But what started out as an academic pursuit turned into an actionable plan. He presented his coursework on the importance of LEED certification and the opportunity at Hillcrest to the committee that oversaw the project.

"The persistence of Asher [Burns-Burg] in pushing his initiative was very important," said Isham, who downplayed his role in the Burns-Burg's project. "It was an example of embracing the good idea and getting out of the way."

Burns-Burg and the committee's efforts materialized in 2007, when the College teamed up with architect Steve Smith of SAS Architects in Burlington to complete an adaptive reuse of the existing facility, in coordination with Middlebury's Best Practices for Construc-



Allie Needham

The beautiful simplicity of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest reflects the goal of environmental responsibility the College is pursuing.

Biomass Plant nears completion

By James Kerrigan
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After fewer than two years of construction in the southern part of campus, the Biomass Plant project is nearing its end and will likely be operational by January 2009. Flanked by the recently completed Donald E. Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library and the under-renovation McCullough Student Center, the Biomass Plant will contribute to the College's Carbon Reduction Initiative and catch up with the campus' current energy demands.

Despite being a couple of months behind schedule, Assistant Director of Facilities Services, Cen-

tral Heating/Utilities and Co-Head of the Biomass project Mike Moser is optimistic that the Plant will be up and running by the time students return to campus for Winter Term.

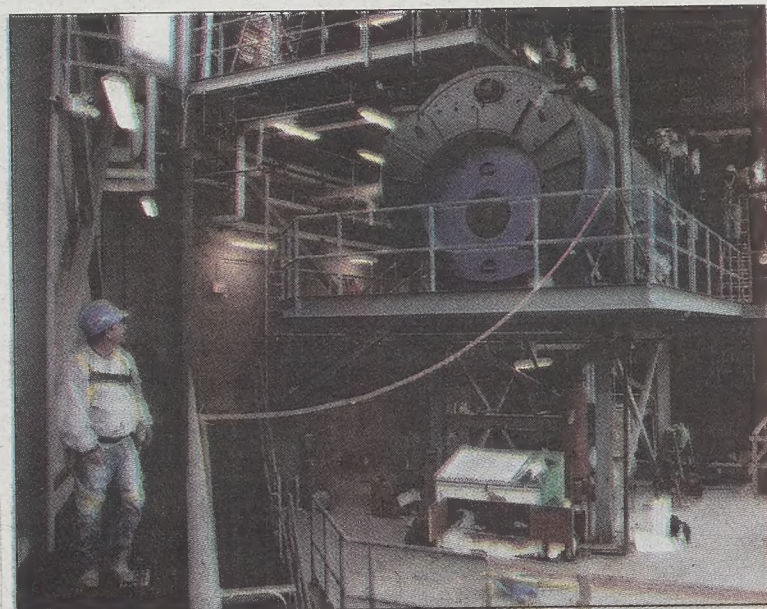
"The project has gone well from my perspective, including contractor performance and schedule," wrote Moser in an e-mail. "Final air permit testing [should be] performed in the last week of January."

The Plant is expected to reduce the College's consumption of Number 6 fuel by one million gallons per year by converting biomass fuel into useable steam energy that will connect directly to the existing plant infrastructure. Chiptech, a Vermont

business, provided the B-Series Gasifier that converts wood chips into gas, which then is coupled to a Johnson fire tube boiler that generates 250 psig (pounds per square inch) of saturated steam, according to a project report released last March. In the end, this fuel cutback represents a 50 percent drop from current energy use numbers.

Following the lead of the Carbon Reduction Initiative's Working Group, students in the 2003 Winter Term course "Scientific and Institutional Challenges of Becoming Carbon Neutral" completed a 200-page report entitled *Carbon Neutrality at*

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Eleanor Horowitz

A worker observes the Biomass Plant, which should be operational by early 2009.

this week



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Zip car test drive makes for smooth green ride

By Emma Gardner
SPORTS EDITOR

As the College community has made strides to convert the campus into a more environmentally friendly place over the past few years, students have begun to promote energy-saving alternatives to using personal cars through the year-old Zipcar program. While the College has long permitted all students to keep personal cars on campus, the growing concern for environmental activism has propelled both students and the administration to take a closer look at alternatives, such as Zipcars, in an effort to decrease the number of vehicles crowding the parking lots.

Last fall, Middlebury embarked on a collaboration with Zipcar, the country's largest car sharing company, to test the feasibility of such a program at the College. The decision to give the Zipcar program a trial run arose out of the College's Carbon Reduction Initiative, which Assistant Treasurer and Director of Business Services Thomas Corbin described as "a way to get each student to reduce his or her carbon footprint."

The College arranged for two Toyota Hybrid Prius Zipcars to be made available to students on a 24-hour basis, seven days a week. Students were encouraged to try out the program as a means of simultaneously reducing their gas and car maintenance expenses as well as increasing their level of environmental activity.

"If we want students to be better global citizens, we have to give them an alternative," said Corbin. "We tried bicycle sharing and bus programs, neither of which really worked. We needed something like the Zipcar program so that students weren't stranded here if they needed to go elsewhere."

Since the program's launch, Zipcars have become a popular way for students to travel around Addison county.

"I use it about once a week for various errands," said Alex Benepe '09.

Today around 212 students hold accounts with Zipcar through Middlebury, where only 100 were enrolled by the end of last spring.

"We're getting use out of them 33 percent of hours per week," said Corbin, adding that once the level of usage reaches 50 percent, the program "will be self-sufficient and at a point where we won't have to be as involved as we are now."

It seems that since its inception the program has received a predominantly positive response from students, many of whom must now compete for the opportunity to use one of the two campus Zipcars.

"Generally if you do not reserve [a car] at least 24 hours in advance it's hard to get one, which tells me that they are used quite a bit," said Benepe. "Frankly, I think the campus could use one more at this point."

Zipcars are used most frequently by students who do not own cars or live too far away to drive personal vehicles to campus, as well



Angela Evancie

The College's Zipcar program provides an environmentally friendly travel option for students.

as by international students. While the Zipcars do increase the number of vehicles on Middlebury grounds, students who might otherwise have used cars belonging to their friends are given the opportunity to make use of more energy-efficient vehicles at a lower price.

"The pricing is really reasonable, at only eight dollars an hour, and they give you a special gas card that can be used at any station," said Benepe, who also added that "the Prius gets about 50 miles to a gallon, though, so you don't need to fill it up that much."

While the College has yet to generate a return on its investment in the Zipcar program, the administration maintains that "we made a commitment to stay with the program for three years because we felt it would take two to three years to build the program up to where it was self-efficient," according to Corbin.

If the program continues to follow its current trajectory of success, the Zipcar will likely become the new "yellow bike" of Middlebury College — only this time, it will be more difficult to misplace and probably will not break down as easily.

New buildings highlight College's eco-architecture

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ciency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, and indoor environmental quality. It did so through a careful design process and thoughtful construction choices, according to Project Manager Mark Gleason.

"Hillcrest exceeds other campus buildings in the efforts that were made by the design team, the contractor and the College personnel who worked on the building," said Gleason. "These efforts were necessitated because of the decision to pursue LEED certification."

Much of the original Hillcrest — both its materials and spaces — was preserved in the construction. For example, the southern annex was removed and over 80 percent of the materials were recycled or reclaimed. Although renovation of the original building was the priority, the two-story addition on the south created important new spaces — the

seminar room and "The Orchard," a technologically advanced lecture hall with space for 100. Hillcrest also includes 14 offices, a study lounge and several informal meeting areas.

During the construction, contractors used as many local materials as possible, including slate from Poulney, Vt., granite from Barre, Vt. and certified hardwood trim and flooring from College-owned forests. Moreover, the local carpenters helped supply interior furniture to complete the project.

The result has been a success. "This building is a powerful example that green architecture doesn't demand a cleared site and a new foundation — that we know tricks enough these days to make any building work both for its users and for the planet," wrote Scholar-in-Residence in Environmental Studies Bill McKibben on the building's Web site.

Originally built in 1875, Hillcrest was acquired by the College in 1919 to be used for student housing. This function continued

until the 1980s when faculty offices replaced student dorm rooms. Recognizing that the building underwent a historical transformation and served both students and faculty during the 20th century, the College moved to have the two parties coexist.

"Environmental studies, metaphorically speaking, was always a hub on campus," said Isham, "but now it's actually a hub. The purpose of a building is to bring people together, and Hillcrest has further enhanced a good thing. It may be small, but should not be underestimated. It has brought us all together."

Once spread out all over campus, Hillcrest has centralized the Environmental Studies program by putting faculty, the Dean of Environmental Affairs, staff of the College's Sustainability Integration Office and the Office for Community Based Environmental Studies under one roof — a roof that includes a seven kilowatt bank of solar panels, which provide upwards of 20 percent of the power used in the building.

In addition to solar panels, the building satisfied 52 of the possible 69 elements of LEED, the third-party certification system. Hillcrest also received a perfect score in the "Energy & Atmosphere" category, which has been the primary goal of on-campus construction projects, according to Gleason. 50 percent of the purchased electricity comes from "cow power" — electricity generated by burning methane captured from decomposing manure at Vermont dairy farms. Builders also used thorough blower tests to identify invisible air leaks through the high-efficiency windows and doors. Insulating foam and vapor seals further contribute to energy conservation in the building, which will be heated by the biomass powered central steam plant beginning Dec. 1.

Inside, the building uses low water-use fixtures, including waterless urinals and a low-flow showerhead — an amenity meant to encourage bike travel. Strategic window placements maximize passive solar heating and cooling. When natural weather conditions are not enough, the building's tempera-

ture is monitored and controlled through a central energy management system.

Just as construction has been "performed with sustainability goals in mind" over the past several years, so too will projects of the future, according to Gleason.

"With each subsequent project, the College has improved on its past performance so that previous leading edge practices become

We know tricks enough these days to make any building work for both its users and the planet.
— Bill McKibben

a basis for new standards," Gleason wrote in an e-mail.

The Donald E. Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library is another example of an environmentally conscious adaptive reuse construction project. With the cost of building from scratch, the College will likely look for ways to use its current spaces in new ways.

"You have to look at what you have and what you are trying to do," said Axinn Project Manager Tim McGinn. "It is difficult to justify tearing down current square footage because of the cost." This, too, was the model for restoring the nearly century-old Starr Library.

"The [Abernathy] Reading Room was a grand space, and important for the College to maintain," said McGinn. Preserving history was a hallmark for the project as the design and construction teams found ways to maximize the energy management system, especially by using sunlight and local materials.

Both Hillcrest and the Axinn Center highlight the larger effort on the College's part to prioritize "green building" as it moves forward with construction projects. But administrators are not the only ones concerned with environmentally sustainable building. Within the environmental science major, architecture is the fastest-growing focus, according to Isham. Students, as well as the College, seem to be simultaneously recognizing the importance of the built environment and implementing it in both academia and on-campus construction.

Middbrief

by Adam Schaffer, Staff Writer

Green orientation draws mixed reviews from students

Ranked as the number one "school that gets it" by the Sierra Club for its environmental initiatives, the College has extended its stewardship to educate students and staff on maximizing campus sustainability. The effects of such programs, however, remain in question.

All residential life staff were required to undergo a 45 minute session to help them to "better understand the issues and priorities and practices of sustainability at Middlebury and to be better able to communicate with students about the topic," explained Sustainability Integration Director Jack Byrne in an e-mail.

Reflecting on the experience, however, many were left without useful knowledge.

"All I remember is that we should unplug our computers when we're not using them and use energy saving lighting, and then I fell asleep," said Will James '10, a First-Year Counselor (FYC) in Ross.

Also remembering many students nodding off during the program, fellow FYC Emmy Burleigh '10 felt that the experience failed to connect environmental sus-

tainability practices to her job as an FYC.

"It didn't relate at all back to what our job was, and the point of our training ... was to be prepared for our job for this year," she said. "It was not relevant at all."

During a recent review of programs undertaken by residential life staff, Burleigh recalled this environmental program as one that many FYCs believed to have failed to educate them for their work ahead.

Byrne, for his part, now gives a new employee orientation to help people joining the College community integrate sustainability into their work with the College.

The College also attempted to include first-year students in the process. Each incoming student was sent a welcome letter encouraging the use of public transportation, recycling and energy conservation.

Nina Wright '12 said that although she does not remember this mailing or receiving specific guidance from her FYCs about how to be more environmentally friendly, "there still is an overall atmosphere of environmentalism on campus."

Weybridge funds come under scrutiny

By Tess Russell
FEATURES EDITOR

On Nov. 17, the Community Council deliberated on two motions that could effectively determine the fate of Weybridge House, an academic interest house which receives substantial funding (approximately \$25,000 annually) from the College to provide local, sustainable and organic food to the College community.

The economic crisis that has plagued the nation — and the College's endowment — over the past several months has already affected Middlebury's student body in tangible ways. In the coming year, institutional cutbacks that began with a hiring freeze on new faculty and the cancellation of Winter Term trips will begin to affect student life even more directly.

"The first thing to go in the reality of this financial crisis has to be the luxuries — as it is, we barely have the money to pay faculty salaries," said Student Co-Chair of Community Council Antoinette Rangel '09. "Cuts to Weybridge's funding will be a huge detriment to the College, because everyone here loves the house and they do such great things, but they are not germane to Middlebury's existence."

Other academic interest houses on campus — a group comprised of the Queer Studies House, Palana House and all of the College's foreign language houses — receive annual budgets of \$900. In light of recent financial tightness, Weybridge House submitted a revised budget that would allow them to fulfill their mission on \$5,000 fewer per annum.

"They were amazingly proactive in their proposal," said Council member Abigail Blum

'08.5. "To my knowledge, no other house or organization has shown that sort of initiative."

For all the expenses incurred in cooking socially and environmentally "responsible" cuisine, Weybridge House's food budget is still less than the sum of the dining refunds its residents would receive from their comprehensive fees if they were considered "special" students. (Because Weybridge House is considered on-campus housing, this concern is a hypothetical one, but was still explored in Council meetings.)

"We do cook food to order so that if something is not cooked, the raw ingredients can go into something else later — they are not wasted or considered 'leftovers,' wrote Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette in an e-mail. "With fewer than 20 inhabitants of Weybridge House, you can see that they do not tip the scale greatly one way or another."

For her part, Rangel expressed concern that the disparity in funding is an innate reflection of the College's "extreme" preference for some aspects of its mission statement (environmental initiatives) over others (diversity, for example). Furthermore, she acknowledged the unfeasibility of relying on joint initiatives as a blanket solution to the unequal budgets.

"The issue is equity," said Rangel. "There are plenty of cultural organizations that would love to have the opportunity to cook. Weybridge has done a great job coordinating events in their house with other groups, like 'Gaybridge,' but a friend of mine is part of the African American Alliance, and if they want to cook fried chicken at one of their events — well, that may not be local, sustainable and organic, but should they

be confined to the Weybridge way of life?"

Blum countered that inequality of funding does not necessarily reflect preferential treatment by the College of one organization or institutional goal.

"The issue here is what different groups need to achieve their mission statements," she said. "Think about an academic situation: a physics class may require a lot of expensive lab equipment to meet its goals, while a political science class has inherently lower operating costs. The residents of Weybridge House are not living frivolously — they are feeding hundreds of people for \$824 over two weeks."

The first of two motions brought before the Council — which proposed to make funding for all academic interest houses equal — failed, with six members voting for it, nine members opposing and two abstaining. The Council passed the second motion, which recommended that no more than \$5,000 be cut from Weybridge House's budget, with eight members supporting, six opposing and three abstaining.

However, as Acting Dean of the College Gus Jordan explained, honoring the Council's recommendation may not be possible.

"The Budget Oversight Committee will have to evaluate potential cuts to many excellent programs and projects, and not every organization or program will get all that they want or need," wrote Jordan in an e-mail. "Thus, all of us need to be both realistic (recognizing that we have fewer resources ... than we did even a few months ago) and innovative (looking for far less costly ways to advance our objectives)."

Fellowship lets journalists go green

By Jaime Fuller
NEWS EDITOR

The birthplace of the Environmental Studies major and the home of the idyllic Bread Loaf School of English seems the perfect place to host an Environmental Journalism Fellowship. Under the stewardship of Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben and Visiting Lecturer Christopher Shaw, the fellowship program has given budding journalists from all over the world the opportunity to report on environmental issues they feel passionate or curious about.

The program was established in September 2007 with the help of an anonymous donation of \$1.5 million, and allows eight graduate and two Middlebury students to pursue a project of their choosing for a full year. The graduate students — who have reported from such diverse regions of the globe as South Africa, Zimbabwe and Bolivia — are given \$10,000 to help cover living and reporting expenses, and they are also asked to participate in week-long residencies at Bread Loaf in the fall and the Monterey Institute of International Affairs in the spring. Throughout the year, Director of the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism McKibben and Associate Director Shaw offer guidance to students and help prepare their stories for print, Internet and radio.

The fellows who took part in the maiden voyage of the program have been quite successful in getting their articles in print, with the young journalists' work getting published in such well-known publications as *Mother Jones*, *Outside*, *Gourmet* and the *Virginia Quarterly*. At an informational meeting on Nov. 12, Shaw highlighted McKibben's well-placed connections as a reason for their first-year success.

"Bill has a lot of influence ... if Bill says 'you should read this' to an editor, they usually do," he said.

Kevin Redmon '09 and Tim Reynolds '09 were the Middlebury students chosen as undergraduate fellows this year. Redmon is working on a project highlighting the sometimes conflicting aims of ardent conservationists and local entrepreneurs in the Adirondack Park. He examines this in the context of the recent land deal negotiations undertaken by the Nature Conservancy, which has the opportunity to pioneer "a sea change of environmental thinking in the Adirondacks."

"Everyone in the Adirondacks ... has

a powerful attachment to the place and the land," wrote Redmon in an e-mail. "It is for this reason that land conservation can be a volatile prospect."

Reynolds' project focuses on the construction of new national parks in southern China. The idea for his project originated from his work this summer with the Nature Conservancy in the Yunnan Province.

The most enjoyable part of his trip, he said, "was traveling around to these proposed national park sites and staying in a few villages that lie within the park boundaries, getting to talk to people about how living in a 'national park' has changed their lives."

The lessons and skills the fellows have picked up during their reporting will be invaluable as they continue trying to build careers in journalism. Redmon has learned that the secret to a good story is to ignore the pull of modern technology, and that human connection is key.

"The most profound thing I've learned from the fellowship thus far is how to pick up a telephone and call complete strangers," wrote Redmon in an e-mail. "It sounds trivial, but it's often the biggest barrier to getting an interesting story. Several times in the Adirondacks, I simply showed up on someone's doorstep with my steno pad and microphone. It's hard to say no to a guy who's standing on your stoop, obviously underdressed and freezing in the blow-

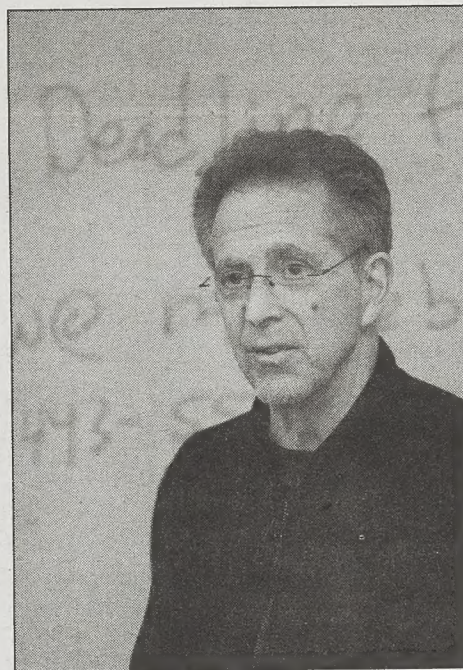
I'm seeing more opportunity than ever before.

— Adam Welz

ing snow outside."

Another fellow, Heather Smith, is writing on colony collapse disorder after discussing possible topics with her professors at the University of California at Berkeley. She found the fellowship a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do in-depth reporting on an interesting and pertinent issue.

"Most of us, upon graduating, would be going into jobs where we would be expected to generate an incredible amount of content, and not do much in-depth reporting," she wrote in an e-mail. "It was like Willy Wonka



Andrew Ngeow

Christopher Shaw sells the success of environmental journalism fellowships to interested students at a Nov. 12 meeting.

and the Chocolate Factory. The fellowship was the golden ticket to spend months bumming around with entomologists, or hanging out with Uiger politicians in Northwest China, or pretending to be an illegal gold miner, without worrying about whether or not we could afford to eat while doing it."

Adam Welz, a graduate of the first run of the fellowship, said the program has opened up many opportunities and given him experience that translates into work he can be proud of.

"I have a story in the queue at a great American magazine and have worked with a fantastic editor there," Welz wrote in an e-mail. "I've also become more confident in my ideas for environmental media and have started making big plans for 2009. I'm seeing more opportunity than ever before, despite the 'economic meltdown,' in fact, because of it."

This economic meltdown, combined with the changes in journalism since the advent of the Internet, leaves Shaw apprehensive of how much longer print journalism like that being pursued by the fellows will remain relevant.

"This whole business is going to change drastically," he said. "Of course, I've been saying this for fifteen years."

Middbriefs

by Stephanie Joyce
and Ian Trombulak, Staff Writers

College keeps up with current printing trends

Even printing has taken on a distinctly green hue in recent years as Middlebury has kept pace with the national trend, switching to 100 percent post-consumer waste paper in most publications, reducing printed publications and encouraging recycling. Even so, the limited oversight of publications on campus leaves the choice to 'go green' or not print at all largely up to the individual.

Steve Goodman, manager of Reprographics, the on-campus printer, estimates that roughly 25,000 pages get printed for College purposes every day. Programs, sports schedules, event fliers, alumni newsletters, yearbooks and directories are just some of the daily printing projects at Middlebury.

Reprographics designer Lyn DeGraff noted the importance of using environmentally friendly papers, inks and printing practices, but was quick to point out that cost plays a major role in decisions about printing. "Often it's more expensive to be environmentally friendly, so it requires cutting back on quantity to compensate," she said.

Sometimes though, all that is required is innovation. In an effort to be both sustainable and cost-effective, The Center for Campus Activities and Leadership (CCAL) has ceased their bi-annual mailing of student fundraising projects, opting instead to send a postcard inviting parents to a Web site. Other publications, such as *New Faces* and the *Winter Term Workshop* catalog have simply been reduced in number and target only specific groups.

The alternative, of course, is not to print at all. Director of Communications Maggie Paine stressed the importance of thinking before printing. "How do you get the right message to the right people at the right time?" she asked. "That's how we can be good stewards of the College's mission and money."

Count Paper proves cost-effective and eco-friendly

The College's most noticeable effort to increase environmental friendliness may be the biomass gasification boiler next to the McCullough Student Center, but smaller initiatives such as Count Paper are aiding the cause as well. The initiative, which began last year in the form of e-mail notifications to all students reporting their individual paper consumption from networked printers, aims to cut paper waste in half.

The basic idea of the Count Paper initiative is to remind students that every sheet counts. It will not restrict your paper use — rather, it will tell you the exact number of sheets you have used. Carol Peddie of Library and Information Services undertook the challenge following a charge by the environmental council on campus to address the paper waste on campus.

Though the initiative began with the environment in mind, the increasingly bleak state of the economy now gives the initiative the dual purpose of being a vital cost cutter as well. If the College can reduce the amount of paper it wastes by half through initiatives like Count Paper, as well as an increased level of encouragement to print on both sides of a sheet, it will reduce the budgetary stress and allow the College to focus its resources elsewhere. Unlike the biomass gasification boiler, the Count Paper initiative does not come at any cost; instead, it serves to reduce cost in addition to promoting eco-friendly behavior, getting us that much closer to the goal of carbon neutrality by 2016.

Satellites take green overseas

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Board of Trustees voted to make Middlebury entirely carbon neutral by 2016. The Trustees' resolution, however, strives to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality only for the "College's Vermont campus," omitting the College's 30 abroad sites as well as domestic sites such as the Monterey Institute of International Affairs, and the Language Schools' and Bread Loaf School of English's satellite campuses.

In recent years, the Office of International Programs and Off-Campus Study has attempted to educate directors of the Schools Abroad about ways to "go green." However, these green initiatives pale in comparison to those taken on by the College's Vermont campus. The initiatives for the C.V. Starr schools are outlined in a guide called the "Middlebury Study Abroad Going Green Guide for Schools Abroad Directors." The guide recognizes Middlebury as one of the preeminent liberal arts colleges in the field of environmental sustainability (pointing out that Middlebury is one of only four institutions nationwide to win the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)'s Campus Sustainability Award), and endeavors to help the C.V. Starr schools achieve parity with the College's central campus in the environmental realm.

The Study Abroad Office also stresses environmental consciousness to its departing students. Students are briefed on environmental issues associated with traveling and studying abroad both in pre-departure materials and meetings.

The office recommends that students participate in the "Green Passport" program, which consists of a pledge stating that, when studying abroad, green passport holders will minimize their impact on the environment and take into account the social and environmental consequences of their actions.

A carbon offset program is also offered by the Office of International Programs and Off-Campus Study, whereby students may purchase carbon offsets to neutralize the impact of their air travel. For \$36, NativeEnergy of Vermont will offset your carbon emissions, and give you a certificate as well as a pint of Ben & Jerry's upon your return to America.

Finally, the Study Abroad Office offers a more academic option to engage in environmental issues while abroad. The "Sustainable Study Abroad Grants" of up to \$500 are awarded to students for projects related to the environment or sustainability issues to be pursued while studying abroad. Recent grant winners have utilized their money by working on projects as diverse as sustainability in modern Parisian architecture, to China's abundance of waste, to geothermal power in New Zealand.

Thebodo was quick to point out that "discussions about study abroad and environmental sustainability are relatively new to the field of education abroad, so we have a long way to go as a field." Thebodo has been at the forefront of the discussion on sustainable study abroad, having presented on a panel entitled "Sustainability in Education Abroad: Reducing our Global Footprint" at the Association of International Educators conference in Washington, D.C. last May.

Nonetheless, the Study Abroad Office and the Office for Sustainability Integration feel it is necessary for the Schools Abroad to begin to hold themselves to the standards of the Vermont campus.

The Study Abroad office said that implicit in their mission of exposing students to cultures different from their own, they are doing a small part in improving sustainability practices. Thebodo wrote, "the average Western European uses half as much energy as the average American ... We hope our students learn about these practices when they are abroad, adapt more sustainable lifestyles and bring back what they have learned."

Innovation required to meet green goals

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bury's remote location will be impossible to completely eradicate. Wolfson said travel will most likely be cut, but in order to become carbon neutral the College will need to buy carbon offsets to atone for trips to locations far from the Green Mountains.

Wolfson said the next step the College planned to take in its quest towards carbon neutrality by 2016 was to duplicate the biomass plant, but these plans were made before the financial crisis made the administration more budget-conscious.

"It's going to cost," Wolfson said. "It's not as economically feasible as it was two months ago. We're going to have to be innovative if we want to do this by 2016."

Although Wolfson believes Middlebury is a pioneer among the nation's liberal arts colleges in its commitment to carbon neutrality, he wishes that there were another way to get there besides the woodchip-fueled biomass plant.

"Frankly, I'm a little disappointed that we

need to burn something else to become carbon neutral," he said.

The nine-acre willow farm planted on College lands seeks to make the biomass plant more palatable and more sustainable. When 1200 acres of willows are fully grown, they

We've been struggling since the carbon neutrality proposal was passed with what we should do next.

— Chester Harvey '09

should be able to provide a quarter of the College's heating fuel supply, which in effect replaces 500,000 gallons of the carbon-rich #6 oil.

The Sunday Night Group (SNG) has also been busy trying to deal with carbon reductions, albeit on a much larger scale. Chester Harvey '09, who was a main actor in the push to get Middlebury carbon neutral, is pleased

with what the College has achieved so far, but unsure of how SNG should progress.

"We've been struggling since the carbon neutrality proposal was passed with what we should do next," he said. "We almost accomplished our goals too well, we didn't leave any-

thing for the students to do afterwards."

He then said that since carbon neutrality was mostly in the administration's hands as far as Middlebury College goes, SNG was now focusing on the climate crisis on a larger scale.

"We've been trying to branch out beyond campus, to bring carbon reductions to the community and the state, and further out nationally," said Harvey.

As part of this branching out beyond the bubble, Lois Parsley '11 has been leading an effort to draft policy proposals that she hopes to present to Vermont legislators, using her research on Oregon's business energy tax credit program as the starting point.

"Like Oregon," Parsley wrote in an e-mail, "the state of Vermont could stimulate capital investment, conservation savings and renewable energy sources through the introduction of energy conservation and renewable energy income tax credit programs."

Parsley's goal is to finish drafting her proposal with the help of the Middlebury chapter of the Roosevelt Institution, and raise awareness among local representatives, senators and business leaders, which she hopes will lead to passage of her idea in the 2009 state legislative session. However, recent events in national politics have spurred her to make much more ambitious goals regarding her policy proposal.

"Since Obama's win last week, I have also been discussing with Professor [of International Environmental Economics] Jon Isham and [Scholar-in-Residence] Bill McKibben the possibility of taking my proposal national," she wrote in an e-mail. "I am beginning to network on the national level towards that goal."

Other nationally oriented SNG-supported initiatives include Middshift, 1Sky, 350.org and PowerVote, which all seek to make climate change a more central part of the national agenda. At the SNG meeting Nov. 9, Bill McKibben had no fears that the College would not be able to achieve its environmental goals.

"Middlebury has been the most activist college campus on climate change for about a decade," he said. "[This college] has a legacy and historical commitment to the environment and is in the lead for college campuses in the march towards carbon neutrality."

Middbriefs by Tess Russell, Features Editor

Footprint calculator site demystifies carbon stats

As Middlebury students, we are certainly conscious of our carbon footprints and cognizant of small steps we can take to reduce the impact that we have on climate change. Still, it can be hard to grasp the weight of our personal carbon contributions when faced with intangible metric measurements. With that in mind, the Global Footprint Network (GFN), a non-profit organization which cooperates with various campaigns and initiatives to work towards a sustainable future, has created an interactive "footprint calculator," located at www.footprintcalculator.org.

Unlike other carbon quizzes, the GFN's calculator is easy to use and couches emissions in easily relatable terms, showing as a final result how many "earths" it takes to support each of our lifestyles. To start, participants are enabled to choose from a range of wacky hairstyles and outfit choices to create their own avatars, whom they will follow through a series of questions.

The first query deals with dietary habits — specifically, we are asked how often we consume animal-based products, how much of our food is processed and where the majority of our food comes from — and respondents can elect to provide a

few "basic" answers or, alternatively, multiple "detailed" answers. Subsequent questions deal with our recycling habits, our usage of electricity, the size and structure of our homes and our travel patterns via public transportation, car, motorbike and airplane. The graphics, which show our waste literally mounting up on our computer screen in the form of plastic bottles, power lines and gas-guzzling automobiles, are both amusing and intentionally disturbing.

And now, the moment of truth: how many planet Earths would we need to provide enough resources for everyone to "live like me"? I will not disclose the exact amount, but I can tell you that it is not too far off that incurred by Jack Byrne, the College's director of sustainability integration, and that the "average" American uses five times (i.e., five planets worth) his or her share of Earth's resources. Perhaps the most useful aspect of the GFN calculator is that it allows users to backtrack to direct questions and see where their environmental impact is the most significant — I was doing pretty well until the air travel section. (Looks like it might be time to find some new vacation spots.)

In addition to its personal footprint calculator, GFN's Web site allows users to compute the output produced by their businesses, cities and nations. They also provide a useful, and surprisingly comprehensible, explanation of how the equation for the "planet" figures was designed.

corrections

In the Nov. 13 issue of *The Campus*, it was incorrectly reported that the College has seen a 12 percent rise in applicants over the past 3 years. Applications have risen 50 percent overall. *The Campus* regrets this error.

Plant first big step to carbon neutrality

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middlebury College. It addressed several issues, but perhaps most importantly provided a portfolio of strategies deemed most likely to: (1) be feasible within the constraints of Middlebury College operations, (2) produce the greatest net reduction in campus Carbon Dioxide Equivalent emissions, or (3) have the greatest long-term potential for significant mitigation of campus climate impact. A biomass plant proposal was among the report's explorations.

"Because water heating and air heating are connected (carbon dioxide emission source is the same), the only true way to reduce emissions is to switch to a cleaner fuel source, particularly a renewable resource," the report concluded on page 30. "Thus, switching to biomass will make the largest impact of all strategies for both objectives within the sector as well as all reduction strategies in this report."

While it took a few years for this report

to gain traction, the plan became increasingly viable in early 2005 and central to reducing the biggest contributor to the College's carbon footprint: fuel oil. Construction began in the spring of 2007 and has been underway ever since. Although the Plant is not operational, the gasifier is readily visible from the street through the two-story, east-facing glass wall.

It would be great to actually see it come to fruition.

— Steve Weber

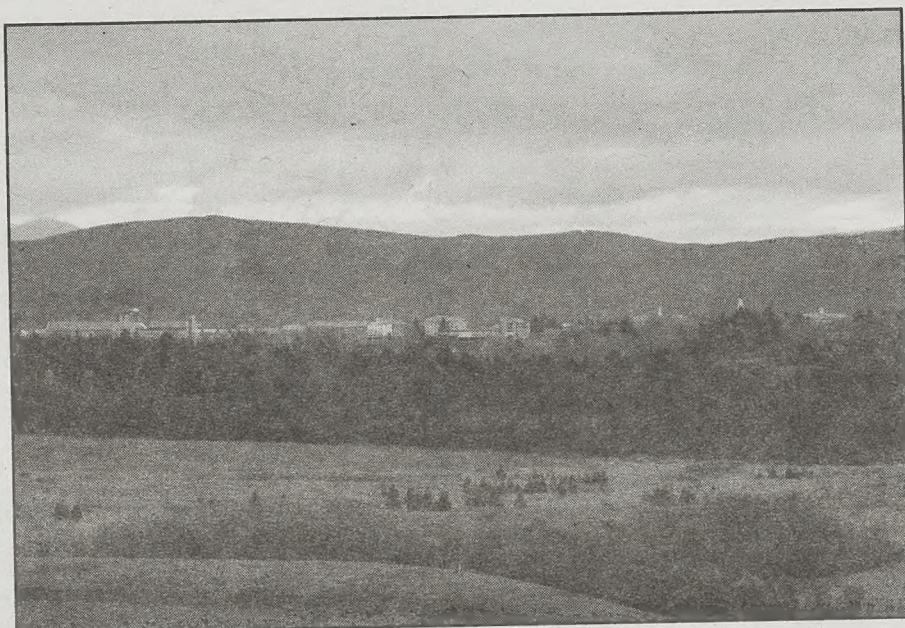
When the Plant is completed, it will use 20,000 tons of wood chips annually. In the short term, Cousineau Forest Projects, a New Hampshire-based company, will coordinate the delivery of three full size tractor-trailer

loads per day. Hopefully, this outsourcing will be replaced in the long run by a green chip source — a fuel that is grown, harvested, processed and delivered to the plant in a sustainable way. With this in mind, Middlebury College initiated a partnership with the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry to plant a nine-acre experimental plot of willow biomass energy crop.

To be sustainable, however, the College would need three plots totaling 1200 acres. Each plot could be harvested every three years on a rotating basis. Before implementation, the nine-acre test plot must prove effective.

Director of Business Services Tom Corbin asserted the importance of testing willow harvesting's viability, according to a College press release issued on July 14.

College Forester Steve Weber agreed that there is much work to be done, but is cautiously optimistic. "It will be a big challenge to see this actually on the scale we need," said Weber, "but it would be great to actually see it come to fruition."



LEARNING OFF THE LAND

A LOOK AT THE COLLEGE'S STAKE IN LOCAL LAND AND FORESTS

In the early 1900s, Middlebury College received over 34,000 acres of land from Joseph Battell.

Many students recognize Battell's name from the first-year residence hall that bears the same title. Battell was a major benefactor of the College in the early 20th century, donating most of Middlebury's forestlands that border the main campus and surround the Bread Loaf campus, and also giving the College what is now the Snow Bowl.

The majority of those 34,000 acres of land from Battell were sold to the forest service. Middlebury now owns about 300 acres of campus, 1,600 acres of farmland and 4,000 acres of forest. The College designated more than 900 acres of its land as protected areas.

College Forester Steve Weber explained the College's mission to sustain its forestland.

"We're trying to manage our forestland as best we can with an ecological perspective," said Weber. "We have to do periodic harvesting of timber according to best management practices. Some of our lands are enrolled in the Vermont Family Forest, which is a forest stewardship council, and it certifies

our land as green."

The forestlands provided timber for portions of various College projects such as Ross and Atwater dining halls, the library, the Recycling Center and the renovation of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest.

In Professor Emeritus of Religion Steven Rockefeller's 1995 blueprint for sustainability, "Pathways to a Green Campus," worthwhile green pursuits for the College are articulated as the preservation of the health and biodiversity of the lands' ecosystems, the development of aesthetically pleasing landscapes, the low use of natural resources and the reestablishment of damaged ecological processes.

The College currently consumes two million gallons of Number 6 fuel oil per year. In order to cut this intake, a wood-burning biomass plant is being constructed in the service building in order to replace one million of those gallons of fuel oil with woodchips.

Middlebury is in the process of deciding whether it will be possible to obtain all of the necessary wood for the facility from College land.

"We might use our own planted willows to fuel our new feeding plant," Weber said. "But this winter, we'll be making the decision about whether it is feasible — economically — to grow willows on a large scale."

The College planted over 30 varieties of willows on the north side of Rt. 125, half a mile west of the campus. They will be harvested in two years.

Between the 1960s and 1990s, Middlebury College acquired approximately nine farms. Only one of the College-owned farms is operating; the majority of them are leased to farmers. The College bought many of these farms to preserve the land and keep them in their natural state. But they can be altered when needed for other purposes.

"The modular student houses are located on what was once a farm property acquired in the 1960s," Weber said. "And the Recycling Center was built on what was once the Harris farm."

According to the Master Plan updated this summer, the College is evaluating its properties in order to work even harder towards a carbon-neutral future.

ARTICLE BY CLOE SHASHA
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATE FISHER



2008
ADDISON COUNTY
CONSERVATION
CONGRESS

ADDISON COUNTY IN TRANSITION:
VISIONING OUR COMMUNITY IN 2020
AND MAPPING THE NEXT STEPS TO GET THERE

Addison County in 2020

Community members envision the future under tough financial and environmental constraints, page 6.

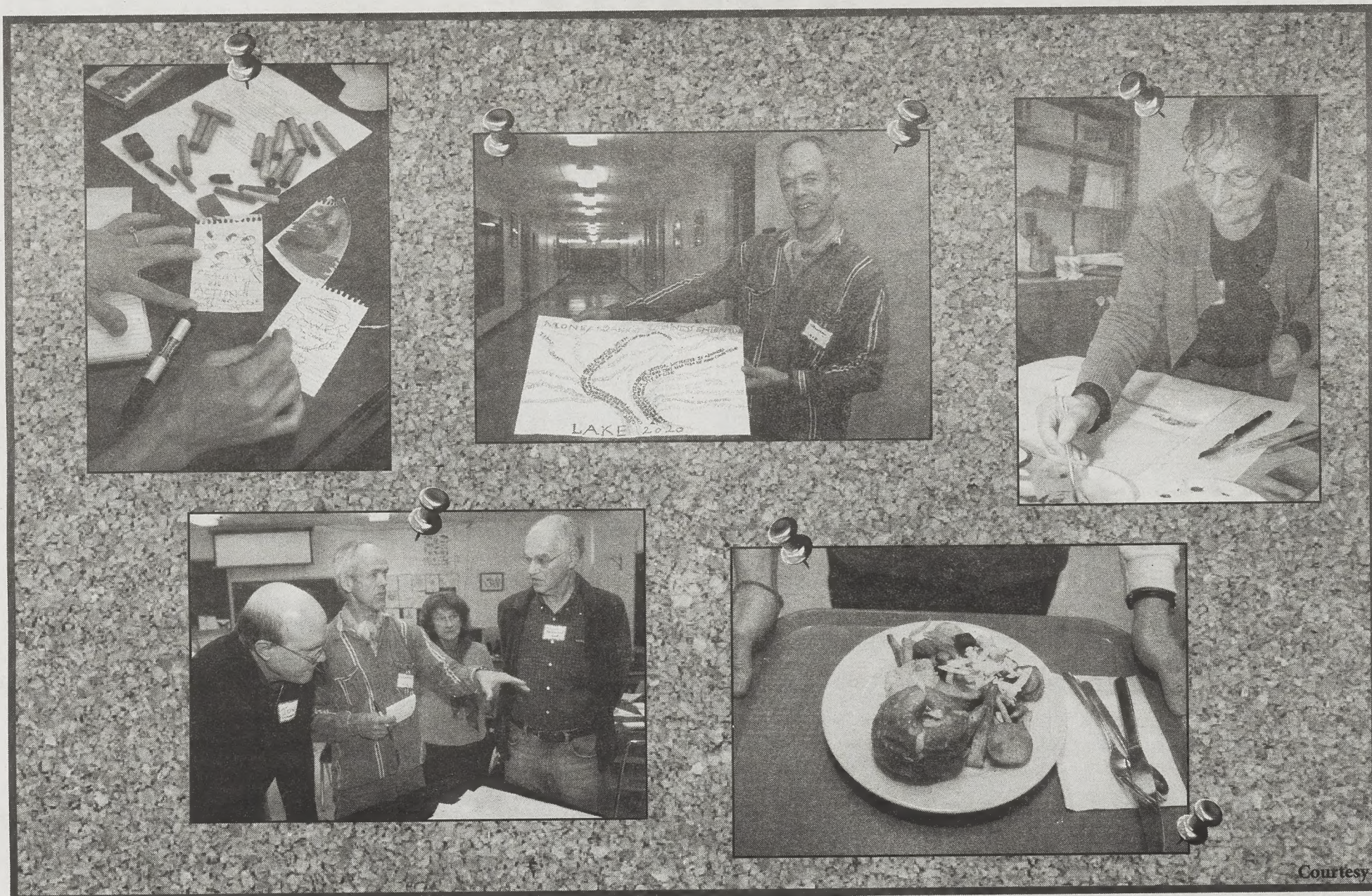
Freezing the harvest

Addison County Relocalization Network resurrects farmers market for winter months, page 7.

This Green House

Vermonters organize to construct an even greener Green Mountain State, page 7.





Conservation Congress ratifies *glocal* outlook

By Andrea Glaessner
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

"Conservation Congress" conjures up an image of a room full of Vermonters drawing up legislation and making decisions on local environmental issues. Against the backdrop of society's current fixation with climate change and national politics, "conservation" could only mean environmental conservation, and "congress" obviously alludes to decision making and action.

Yet at the end of the day, the Addison County Conservation Congress did not produce laws, nor did the group spend hours debating the merits of wood pellets over clean coal energy. Instead, participants of the Congress walked out of Mount Abraham Union High School in Bristol singing the lyrics of a song called "Hope" in a three-part harmony.

"It was ephemeral, it's about learning. [It was] never intended to be an institution or to have a life beyond the day," explained David Brynn, one of the main organizers of the event. "The idea is that people can just relax, it's not about policy setting, not about voting. [It's] a chance for people to sit around and just get to it."

Co-sponsored by the Addison County Relocalization Network (ACoRN) and Vermont Family Forests (VFF), this year's event opened up to encompass a range of topics. Focusing on three issues — peak oil, the financial crisis and climate change — the 150 attendees divided into 12 rooms to discuss these issues through the lens of various aspects of the community from food and farming to heat and power to faith and spirituality. Each room's discussion was led by an expert or leader in the respective area.

Rather than placing environmental conservation at the center of the discussion, it was taken as a given. "We basically made the point that we were assuming that we were going to take excellent care of the land, that we view land as the foundation of the community and that all our plans would keep in mind that we needed to sustain the health of the land," explained Brynn.

Brynn has been organizing these Conservation Congress forums for community

dialogue since the 1990s. The first Congress was held in 1993, and Brynn continued organizing the forums annually for the next five years before taking 10 years off. "The idea, initially, was that we needed a place where the community could come together and discuss controversial conservation issues in an environment that's respectful, but get right to some of the major conservation issues facing us," said Brynn.

Last year's Conservation Congress marked the first one in a decade, and focused on community energy. As successful as it was, Brynn decided to keep the tradition going, hence the decision to organize this year's Conservation Congress, imbuing it with a new theme entitled "Visioning Our Community in 2020 and Mapping the Next Steps to Get There."

Initially, the Congress forums tended to focus exclusively on "conventionally defined conservation sustainable forestry and energy," said College Professor John Elder, who led the "visioning exercise" in this year's event. But according to Elder, the context of this year's event was more inclusive than that of years past.

"[The environmental movement] has evolved quite a bit in the last quarter century, and while wilderness conservation and

If you can envision the future you want then it's easier to make it a reality and bear in mind how you want to achieve that ideal.

— John Elder

biodiversity are all still highly important, we have a tendency now to integrate them with the needs for social sustainability and the human community; we see them all as in-

extricable," said Elder, "I think this is good because it makes environmental movement feel pertinent to a broader range of society, some of whom were inclined to think it elitist before."

The idea for this year's theme came about over a typical afternoon coffee break at the Bristol Bakery and Café. "It actually started right here, almost a year ago now," said Jonathan Corcoran, who helped Brynn organize the event.

The idea is that people can just relax, it's not about policy setting, not about voting. [It's] a chance for people to sit around and just get to it.

— David Brynn

Corcoran's connection to the event comes through ACoRN, which promotes awareness about local sustainability, primarily through food and energy.

"We're just a loose network of people who are really interested in rebuilding the local economy around our basic needs," said Corcoran, explaining ACoRN.

Corcoran described the context for this year's Congress as "The Great Turning." Arguing that we are "on the cusp of this change that some say is as big as the shift from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance," Corcoran believes humans, and Addison County more specifically, are gradually shifting dependence back toward local and regional economies. With the context in place of future change and transition to local — as opposed to global — economic interdependence, Brynn and Corcoran began delving into the details.

"From there, David and I started talking about bringing the community together to vision our future in 2020. We started with 12 rooms, [going] from our most basic material needs, to our social needs, to our spiritual needs. We really tried to basically represent the entire community. The idea is that people would go into these rooms and spend several hours visioning 2020, and then come out of

that with a common vision," said Corcoran.

The vision for the congress conjured up in the Bristol bakery was realized one year later. Over 150 participants engaged in deep discussion over the future of Addison County and how to design its destiny.

Yet several features of the daylong discussion were innovative additions to the old Congress model. The introductory "ohm" chanting, the "localvore" lunch made from Vermont's best local goods, the envisioning

exercise led by John Elder, and the "cranky show" (a type of moveable animation) at the end of the day were a few of the new, exciting additions.

According to Elder, "In each group there was a highly skilled artist who tried to boil down some of our objectives and put it into a kind of moveable animation. Then they made a kind of movie in which the images of our conversation formed a continuous sequence."

"If you can envision the future you want then it's easier to make it a reality and bear in mind how you want to achieve that ideal," said Elder.

As for the physical results of the Congress, each group produced a "vision statement" inclusive of major ideas discussed, along with three decisions of how to implement that vision within each individual's respective household, town and within the county.

"To sum it up, it was really about celebrating community and celebrating what we have and just recognizing what a beautiful, rich place we live in, and at the same time, making it clear that we really have come to a crossroads, and that it's up to us to create our future," said Corcoran.

Net-zero energy homes gaining popularity in Vermont

By Kaity Potak
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

Long before “eco-friendly” became the catchphrase of celebrity homeowners, Vermonters considered environmental consciousness a central tenet to responsible living. Groups such as the Vermont Green Building Network, Efficiency Vermont and Vermont Builds Greener, as well as a growing number of individuals, are working to advocate the construction of green homes. Promoting energy efficiency, using renewable energy resources, conserving water, and minimizing waste are just some of the goals that homeowners are adopting throughout the state.

As architect and green homeowner David Pill said of his recently built net-zero energy home, “the goal of this project was to create a house with as little environmental impact as possible while maintaining a high level of design and detail.” Since Putnam and his wife, Hillary Maharam, established their architectural firm, Pill-Maharam Architects, 15 years ago, Putnam has seen interest in this movement grow.

“I have always tried to incorporate sustainable strategies in every project. Now that ‘green’ is more popular and materials more available, it has gotten a lot easier,” he said.

When he and his family decided to move to Vermont four years ago, Putnam already had the notion of building green on his mind. He remembers that “the landscape and environmental consciousness were two important factors” in their choice. Now, his newly completed Charlotte home, which was just featured in the November/December 2008 issue of Design New England magazine, draws its energy from a wind turbine connected to the local power grid which generated 6,657 kilowatt-hours of power last year. Pill’s electric bill for all of last year totaled around \$60.

Other homeowners throughout the state share this priority of “being green” when it comes to home construction. Fran and Spencer Putnam of Weybridge moved into their environmentally stellar home in July of this year. “We built it for just that purpose — to try to not produce any greenhouse gases,” said Fran. Their two story, 1,800 square foot home is built into the side of a hill to take advantage of geothermal insulation. It is also connected to the grid, and features a solar membrane roof that collects the sun’s power. Any extra energy is fed into the local power grid, contributing to

the local area’s clean energy. As they add power to the grid, the Putnams build up on credits so that on those grey days, they still have heat and electricity in their home. At the end of the year, the idea is to have averaged a net energy consumption of zero.

As Fran proudly confirmed, “It is a closed

[Vermonters] were on the forefront of the green building and sustainable living movement before it became trendy.

system. There’s nothing outside coming in. No gas, no propane, no generator, no batteries. Nothing.”

This October, the Vermont chapter of the National Solar Tour brought 120 people to the Putnam residence for an open house. Tours like this are becoming more popular throughout the state as well as throughout the country, and they help advertise the possibilities of building green.

“People are interested in retrofitting if they are able,” said Putnam. “Most people can’t build a whole new house like we were able to, but they want to make whatever changes they can.” Such changes can include the use of salvaged materials in homes, such as interior doors, sinks and windows. Putnam herself suggests not using drying machines for laundry as a monumental way to cut down on energy usage.

Pill and Maharam’s Charlotte home received the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum award this year, the first ever awarded to a Vermont home. LEED is a third party certification program that has a building rating system. This nationally recognized committee is sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council, and, while a great measure for sustainability, it is not the only one around. It actually has less stringent codes than some local Vermont groups.

According to Pill, “The Vermont Builds Greener program (VBG) is also excellent. It actually helped to shape the LEED for Homes program.” Green homeowners invite VBG into their houses to rate the materials used, recycling components and the green practices ac-

tually performed in the home. They then receive a certification that it meets standards.

Chuck Reiss, a founding chair of the VBG committee, owner of Reiss Building and Renovation company, and the builder of the Putnams’ home in Weybridge, also recognizes that LEED has some shortcomings. “[VBG] disas-

— David Pill

sociated from LEED because they didn’t have some of the requirements that we felt really strongly about. We felt we should be even more comprehensive in our regulations,” Reiss said. His work on the Weybridge house adhered to the high standards of VBG. “The Putnam residence is what we call ‘beyond efficient,’” said Reiss, referencing the heat pump, triple-paned glass windows that maximize southern exposure and the wood — largely from Vermont, and all harvested sustainably.

The South Ridge community in Middlebury is similarly dedicated to living green, but on a larger scale. Their mission statement expresses a belief that “each of us needs to contribute on an everyday level to live a greener, more sustainable lifestyle and in doing so help preserve our pastoral Vermont landscape.” Josh Quinn, South Ridge’s project manager, helped South Ridge become certified by VBG, as well as get their LEED certification. “This was one of the first homes in Vermont, actually, in the country, to receive the new LEED for homes certification,” he happily said.

Looking at the sheer number of successful programs in Vermont, it seems likely that the rest of the world takes cues from Vermont’s initiatives. Chuck Reiss said of VBG, “we have been advocating green buildings and building practices since the early 1980s, long before people even knew what that was.”

Even relative newcomers to the local area recognize the inspiration that Vermont offers.

“I have learned in my very short four years here that Vermonters are very resourceful. They were on the forefront of the green building and sustainable living movement before it became trendy. They are not a microcosm [of the movement] but the nucleus of it,” said Pill.



Courtesy

The Putnam home has a solar membrane roof and south-facing windows to optimize energy use.

Fruits of fall nourish Localvores into winter

By Ahn Wei Lee
STAFF WRITER

If local is the new organic, then Middlebury is well positioned to become one of the trendiest towns around. With a history steeped in agriculture and deeply influenced by the changing economic realities surrounding it, Vermonters have long understood the impacts of fluctuating market conditions. In the past, economic crises have led to marginalization of the state’s many small-scale operations, as consumers have turned to large grocery chains to feed themselves cheaply and free from the constraints of seasonality.

Recently, however, amidst rising concerns over energy constraints, food security, and food justice, local agriculture has taken off as an important alternative to what many consider to be an unsustainable industrial food system. In this transition, Middlebury, with the help of an enthusiastic community base, has emerged as a hub of local involvement and innovation.

Reflecting on the area’s centrality to the local foods movement, Jean Hamilton of Northeast Organic Farmers’ Association (NOFA) said that, “while the local purchasing phenomenon is sweeping the world, it’s been a part of life here for decades, and so certainly boundaries are being pushed [here].”

These boundaries — such as Vermont’s fairly short growing season and the eternal challenge of connecting consumers to producers — are being challenged by such developments as winter farmers’ markets statewide. These establishments largely resemble the warmer weather and more widely publicized farmers’ markets, yet the concept is relatively new and untested in the marketplace. Overall, NOFA calculates that this year there will be at least 20 winter markets in state, with new locations being announced as the season progresses and the markets gain momentum.

In Middlebury, the central organization pushing the boundaries is the Addison County Relocalization Network

(ACoRN). Created in 2005 to address a multitude of challenges that will be facing citizens in an energy-constrained future, ACoRN, as Projects Coordinator Ray Slabaugh puts it, serves as an “incubator for various actions.” According to the group’s mission statement, ACoRN’s objective is “to revitalize our local economy, to help our communities provide sustainable sources of food, water, energy, employment and other essential resources, and to promote conservation and a healthy environment.”

It is under this umbrella framework that ACoRN’s subgroup, the Localvores, approaches issues relating to food. While ACoRN’s message is broad and intellectual, Localvores has been specific and tactical in its support for local agriculture.

Bay Hammond is both a local farmer and the group’s local foods contact. For her, joining the Localvores was a logistical no-brainer.

“I was originally involved because I was frustrated trying to get my product to consumers,” said Hammond, “My operation is too small to get my food into grocery stores, but I’m also too big to keep it all in my freezer.”

In response, one of the first actions the Localvores took was to create a growers guide, which allowed producers and consumers to find one another without the hassle such networking once entailed. Since then, the group has expanded in multiple directions, organizing more than 80 potlucks, starting a food-focused book club and, most recently, sponsoring Middlebury’s winter market.

Like many other winter markets in the state, Middlebury’s is new this year and was created in response to rapidly increasing levels of enthusiasm and support from the local community. The Town Hall Theater has provided space for the gatherings, which will take place on three Saturdays in November, two in December, and once a month after that, until the outdoor farmers’ market reopens.

Though less frequent than the summer markets, the win-

ter market has a similar lineup of vendors. As Susan Smiley of the Localvores recounted, at the market this winter you will at least find the following: three full-scale vegetable growers, one fruit vendor, two cheese vendors, dry flowers, eggs, wool, lamb, chicken and — starting in early 2009 — beef. For these farmers, the success of the winter market will answer many of the intensifying questions over whether or not the area has a consumer base large enough to justify costly infrastructure improvements, such as root cellars and greenhouses. While economically unfeasible in the past, such improvements may prove plausible after this season, and even necessary if the community is serious about eating seasonally all year round.

Middlebury Winter Market

Dates:

November 1: 9 am-12 pm*

November 8: 10 am-2 pm

November 15: 9 am-12 pm*

November 29: 10 am-2 pm

December 6: 10 am-2 pm

December 13: 10 am-2 pm

January 24: 10-2 pm

February 28: 10-2 pm

March 28: 10-2 pm

April 25: 10-2 pm

***indicates that the market will be opening and closing early for shows.**

The Middlebury Campus

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Editorial Why Green?

Why the Green Issue? Why not? After a handful of our peer publications (*Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *The New York Times Magazine*) produced their own Green Issues, featuring a more sustainable production process and an emphasis on environmental content, we thought that we should try adopting the idea for our college newspaper. Newsprint itself is more inclined towards environmentally friendly production anyway, given that most newspaper is recycled. With a few small changes (see our "the making of the green issue," pages 12-13), we were able to make this week's production cycle uniquely green. As for the content of the paper, we knew we wanted to emphasize the environment, especially at Middlebury College. At first we toyed with devoting a few stories in each section to environmental issues, but soon it became obvious that there were enough green issues at Middlebury to fill an entire Green Issue; in fact, we even thought about making a longer paper than usual.

That we were able to think of so many story ideas pertaining to Middlebury and the environment is at the heart of the reason for this Green Issue. Middlebury College is constantly recognized as being one of the most environmentally progressive colleges in the nation. And the College wears its laurels with pride — indeed, there are few causes more deeply rooted in our Vermont school's creed than respect and affection for the environment. But how deserving is Middlebury of this praise? And who's responsible? In this issue we examine some of the most important green initiatives at the College but we also consider what issues the College likes to show off as well as those that are a bit less marketable.

To be sure, we recognize the fundamental hypocrisy in all this. How could something published on paper ever be truly environmentally friendly? Why not take a stand and publish the paper exclusively on the Internet? We understand this basic contradiction and think it a wonderful metaphor for the greater environmental initiatives at the College. This week we have reduced our carbon footprint by minimizing electricity and paper use, purchasing offsets, and even distributing the paper by bike and foot. But we believe that the symbolic and educational purpose of the paper — the devotion of a whole week of news to the environment (and foregoing the exciting week of NCAA soccer, Twelfth Night et al.) — will have a greater impact on environmental awareness than any slight reduction in carbon emissions.

The Middlebury Campus Green Issue is a microcosm of greenness at Middlebury College. Like our production cycle this week, Middlebury College devotes itself to reducing its carbon footprint and minimizing its damage to the environment. And the College has taken brilliant steps to reduce its impact on the environment. But we believe that the impact of these initiatives on the 600 students who leave Middlebury with a diploma each year will have a far more reaching impact than the reduction of a million gallons of oil, or two tons of recycled plastic. Middlebury students will carry with them an awareness about environmental issues that will inform their decisions wherever they go in their lives. Indeed, environmentalism at Middlebury may well be more about education than it is about sustainability. The Environmental Center at Hillcrest and the new Biomass plant were both ideas that originated in classrooms, and it's no coincidence that the Biomass plant features a clear glass façade.

We applaud the Middlebury administration for championing this cause (going back to the introduction of the Environmental Studies major in the mid-1960s). But we encourage faculty, staff, and students alike to remember that this place is above all an educational institution. Like a good class, environmentalism at Middlebury should be self-critical, involving, informative, and complex — with respect for nuance. There is no obvious path for improving environmental sustainability and "greening" our lifestyles. This uncharted land is what comes with leadership. We see this leadership as an opportunity to question, dissent, and not be content to float along in quiet acquiescence. We hope this Green Issue of *The Campus* will help to stimulate this very conversation.

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MAKING ENVIRONMENTALISM FUN



"Hey, why don't we go somewhere where we can save energy under some blankets with the lights off?"

Sam Dakota Miller

Notes from the desk: Jack Lysohir The future of *The Campus*

When I speak to alumni that attended Middlebury in the 1980s and 90s, they almost inevitably date themselves by mentioning their "room phones." Whether coordinating for a big party, asking someone out for a drink at Mister Ups, or even performing pranks of epic proportions, phones were an integral part of student life. Today students look to e-mail, instant messenger, and of course, the all-mighty cell phone (or smart phone, for a growing number of us) for their communication needs. Those generic beige touch-tone phones that sit atop each desk in every dorm room on campus do little more than harken us back to a simpler Middlebury — or for my roommate and me, sporadically offer a stark wake-up call from some earnest, robotic solicitor (How'd they get our number?).

The telephone wire wholly revolutionized the exchange of information — only the invention of the printing press nearly five centuries earlier had a larger impact on this exchange. Our generation, however, has witnessed a dramatic transformation in the way people communicate, in a dramatically short period of time. And now the Internet, which facilitates the exchange of information in a fast, comprehensive, and above all, easy way may finally put an end to Gutenberg's reign. Just as cell phone technology replaced landlines, Internet technology is fast replacing print media.

Will we at *The Middlebury Campus*, a traditional college newspaper, go the way of the room phone and drift into obscurity? Or will print journalism remain relevant? To me, *The Campus* holds its readers for two reasons: one, because of our civilization's habitual attachment to newspaper; and two, because of the quality (most of the time) of the articles. Not only is it better to spill your coffee on *The New York Times* than www.nytimes.com, it

also just feels right leafing through a newspaper at breakfast. As for the second reason, it is the exception and not the rule when *The Campus* breaks news — much of our hard news could be garnered entirely from the College Web site. The structure, depth of reporting, and style of the articles are what keep people reading an 800-word sports piece rather than just a scoreboard.

It is quite clear that our society is rapidly losing its dependence on paper. Exchanges once made formal on paper are now increasingly done online — everything from personal banking to announcing the President-elect. As technology improves, especially with respect to handheld devices, paper will be used for nostalgic purposes only (no more Green Issues ...). But I don't see society giving up on its desire for lengthy, in-depth and well-written stories anytime soon. And as of right now, print is still the best way to read a good piece.

Certain media outlets have done a wonderful job of moving to the Web. Others have had less success. There can be no question that the speed of the Internet puts breaking news (not quality news) at a premium, and this presents obvious problems. Too often Internet journalism is plagued by decisions favoring haste over quality, and reader-response over real reporting. With low barriers to entry, Internet journalism can empower non-professionals to be reporters and pundits, and the results are not always pretty. Only when Internet journalism assumes a more mature structure, following the strong lead of some of our most established papers and magazines, will we look to it with the same confident eyes with which we look to print.

JACK LYSOHIR '08.5 IS THE MANAGING EDITOR. HE IS FROM BRONXVILLE, N.Y.

Letter to the editor

To the Editor:

Once carbon levels in the atmosphere reach 350 parts per million, drastic changes will occur in the global climate, according to Bill McKibben. The atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration is currently at 387 ppm and the world is in need of a leader who will recognize and face this problem. A US president who effectively addresses climate change and the environmental crisis will not only be taking action on the most important international issue of our time, but will be

taking huge strides towards improving America's image abroad. President-Elect Obama, you ran on a platform of change, and this challenge will unflinchingly demonstrate the extent to which you intend on keeping your promise. Reduce carbon emissions; increase funding for research on renewable energy sources; sign on to the Kyoto Protocols; yes, you can.

Sincerely,
Katie Siegner '12

campus policies and information

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's web site at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Sunday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

OP-ED: Robert Schlesinger Journalism's new digital world

It's hard to get your mind around the extent to which the information revolution has changed the practice of gathering and relaying information, whether in online newspapers, or magazine stories or even history books (I've written all of the above).

You get used to the day-to-day of it all: It's not uncommon to connect with sources by phone or by e-mail (if you cover intelligence agencies, you might use a secure email account); press releases too arrive via email; the World Wide Web has created such information oversaturation that reporters have to refine skills of filtering out information.

The magnitude of these changes was brought home to me when I was working on *White House Ghosts*, my history of presidents and their speechwriters. I asked my father, the late historian (and Kennedy speechwriter) Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., about how he would research his books. Poring over White House files in a presidential library, he told me, he would have to hand-copy them (not even photocopyers were available); if he wanted to know how the press covered events he'd have to go to a newspaper morgue; what exactly did the president say on a specific occasion? The public papers of the U.S. presidents fill whole bookshelves. The actual writing involved either tape-recorded dictation or writing draft after draft on a manual typewriter. (Explanations of "newspaper morgue," "tape-recording," and "manual typewriter," if needed,

can be found on the Web.)

That was then. When I found interesting speech drafts or memoranda, instead of photocopying them I would take pictures of the documents with my digital camera, feeling rather like James Bond (early Connery or Craig). Press coverage of Dwight Eisenhower's administration? *The New York Times* and *Washington Post* (and, really, every other newspaper these days) are searchable online, for a fee. *Time's* entire archive is online for free. Presidential speeches? The public papers of the U.S. presidents are searchable online. I digitally recorded interviews and stored them on the laptop computer on which I wrote the book.

What's next? Digitizing documents. Instead of perusing Truman White House memos at his library in Independence, Mo., I'll be able to grab them off the Internet from the comfort of my own couch.

There are drawbacks. Whether you're writing a first draft of history in a newspaper or a polished book version, you lose intangibles of being there — mood, interaction, atmosphere — if you're getting all of your information from the Web. There are some things that still don't translate electronically.

ROBERT SCHLESINGER '94 IS DEPUTY EDITOR FOR OPINION AT U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT AND AUTHOR OF *WHITE HOUSE GHOSTS: PRESIDENTS AND THEIR SPEECHWRITERS*.

OP-ED: Richard Wolfson Green's quantatative side

"Buy an SUV instead of a car," says Bill McKibben, and you'll waste so much energy that "it's like you've decided to leave your refrigerator door open for the next seven years." Shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, you say, and we can replace it with wind turbines. Both of these statements sound reasonable, and both would garner nods of agreement from Middlebury environmentalists. Both statements are also quantitative, explicitly in the first case and implicitly in the second. Could you justify either statement?

Being an authoritative environmentalist means being able to grapple with quantitative issues. "How rapidly are we humans raising atmospheric CO₂ concentration?" "What's exponential growth and how does it affect our projections of future environmental conditions?" "What percent of species are threatened with extinction?" "What's the imbalance in global energy flows and how does that drive anthropogenic climate change?" "How much power is available from wind, and how's that compare with our total energy consumption rate?" "What change in stratospheric temperature should we expect from an enhanced greenhouse effect, and how's that provide evidence for anthropogenic global warming?" "At what rate is sea level rising, and how's that compare with historical rates?" "What's 'tipping point' behavior, and how does its mathematical description differ from 'normal' behavior?" The list of quantitative environmental questions is endless.

The College community is rightfully proud of its commitment to the environment. We're green in so many ways, and we're activists who inspire others beyond the

small world of the Champlain Valley. We're even aiming to become carbon neutral by 2016 (By how much must we reduce our carbon emissions? What's Middlebury's greatest source of carbon? How do our other sources compare?). Yet I'm not sure we're always willing to be as quantitative as we might be. Last year's Environmental Studies colloquium series featured a session on the many voices that need to be heard in the environmental movement. Missing was the quantitative voice. We need that voice, not only to sound — and to be — authoritative, but also to help guide our own environmental decisions. Wind and solar photovoltaics are great for the environment, but understanding Middlebury's electrical energy mix quantitatively shows that they can't help much with carbon neutrality. Buying local chicken reduces our carbon footprint and other environmental impacts, but, as a recent ES colloquium showed, we can't do that without exhausting the local poultry population (How many free-range chickens are there in Addison County?). And switching to hybrid cars will help the environment in many ways, including making a significant dent in our carbon emissions. But only a quantitative assessment can show that hybrids alone won't get us to "80 percent by 2050" or to 350.org's goal of an eponymous atmospheric CO₂ concentration. Understanding all this requires quantitative thinking and the quantitative voice. It's a voice we environmentalists should use proudly, forcefully and often.

RICHARD WOLFSON IS PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND THE BENJAMIN F. WISSELER PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS.

heardoncampus

Middlebury has been the most activist college campus on climate change for about a decade. [This college] has a legacy and historical commitment to the environment.

— Bill McKibben,
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OP-ED: John Elder Just taste this tomato!

The local food movement has become the catalyst for a new phase of environmentalism. In this regard it builds upon and complements many achievements of American conservation's past century. The wilderness ethic affirmed the beauty and the mutual dependence of all life on earth. The growing emphasis on local food now introduces a more socially inclusive and celebratory voice to the conversation.

The wilderness movement still strikes me as (along with jazz) one of America's greatest contributions to civilization. But a significant number of people in our country and around the world have viewed it as exclusive and elitist; one's perception of the movement is inevitably influenced, for one thing, by whether or not one can afford the transportation, equipment, and time for extended back-packing trips in the mountains. A certain forbidding quality in some key environmental legislation of the twentieth century has also irked some critics. Too much emphasis on prohibitions — even of noise and pollution — can strike people as against the Ameri-

can grain. While I for one would want to defend the 1964 Wilderness Act, the EPA, and the Clean Water and Clean Air acts against all comers, this seems a good time to incorporate more festive vocabulary into our environmental lexicon.

One advantage of the local food movement is its inviting and community-based character. At farmers' markets and CSA's, the underlying values may be on supporting our neighbors who are farmers and keeping more of our household expenditures circulating in our own towns. But what we find ourselves saying to each other in those contexts is not likely to be so overtly political. Friends meeting at the farmers' market are more likely to exclaim "Just taste this tomato!" or "Did you try some of this cheese?" Sensory pleasure, as Slow Food founder Carlo Petrini has often stated, can be the foundation for a social philosophy based on the mantra "buono, pulito, e giusto" — which might be translated in this connection as "delicious,

wholesome, and fair."

As with the wilderness movement, the local food movement is susceptible to criticism as elitist. Food from the farmers' market often costs more than that purchased at Wal-Mart. This is where the importance of the value "giusto" comes in. We have to think hard about access to local food for lower-income families. More community gardens, focused subsidies for people who are partially dependent on food-stamps, and farm-to-school networks need to be developed. Similarly, the rights and livelihood of migrant farm workers, as well as the needs of farmers themselves, have to be factored into the equation. But if we apply ourselves seriously to all of these areas of food security and equity, both environmental protection and community sustainability may reap a delicious harvest.

JOHN ELDER IS PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND ENGLISH AND AMERICAN LITERATURES. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF *READING THE MOUNTAINS OF HOME*.

OP-ED: Tim Spears Strategic sustainability

Completed in the spring of 2006, the College's Strategic Plan, "Knowledge Without Boundaries," sets high standards for environmental stewardship. More than ten recommendations focus specifically on the campus environment, while the College's revised mission statement — another result of the planning process — notes that Middlebury "has established itself as a leader in campus environmental initiatives, with an accompanying educational focus on environmental issues around the globe."

Since approving the Strategic Plan, the Board of Trustees signed off on a new campus Master Plan, which depends heavily on green design principles. Perhaps most significant of all, the Board also resolved that the College should be carbon neutral by 2016. That means dramatically reducing the College's dependence on fossil fuels — and slowing the rate of global warming — through energy conservation and efficiency, renewable fuels, technological innovations, and a variety of educational initiatives, aimed at modifying (and decreasing) peoples' use of energy.

In a way, this resolution epitomizes the College's commitment to sustainability, boiling it down to a concrete, indeed quantifiable, reduction in energy use. It also challenges us to act upon our mission statement, and carry our educational theories into practice. Thus far, we have made excellent progress toward this goal, the almost-completed biomass project being an important step forward. When completed this winter, the biomass facility — which burns wood chips — will reduce our use of #6 fuel oil by one million gallons, saving money as well as energy, thereby paying for itself in a matter of years. Also, if the College's project to grow ten acres of willow trees succeeds, we will have managed to create a renewable energy source for the facility.

Having diversified our fuel sources, the next logical step might be reinsulating older buildings on campus

so we can decrease our consumption of energy. As students know first hand, some of our residence halls are draftier than others and require renovation to be energy efficient. The same is true for older academic buildings such as Munroe, whose systems need to be updated and modernized.

But these projects can be costly, and the current fiscal situation will certainly slow the pace at which we renovate campus infrastructure. Indeed, to the extent that environmentally-oriented initiatives might compete for resources with other goals mentioned in the Strategic Plan, the global economic downturn softens that competition since we will be taking on very few new projects in the near term; instead, we will be focused on saving costs. Those savings will help the College maintain a first-rate academic program and its commitment to financial aid. These two areas receive special attention in the Strategic Plan, and as we move through these tough financial times, they remain our top priorities.

Eventually, we will follow up on all the "green" recommendations in the Strategic Plan, including, I hope, the plan to turn Old Chapel road into a pedestrian way. Financial capacity will dictate the timeline for such projects, and by conserving resources, we improve our chances of accomplishing them. In the event that the College receives a gift to fund a carbon-reduction initiative that is consistent with our planning objectives — say, a donation to reengineer the skins of buildings to reduce the loss of heat, which includes endowment support to offset the cost of maintaining the renovated infrastructure — then we could move ahead more quickly. Still, the watchwords these days are fiscal prudence. In this respect, sustainability refers to economic as well as environmental stewardship.

TIM SPEARS IS THE ACTING PROVOST AND PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN STUDIES.

It challenges us ... to carry our educational theories into practice.

OP-ED: Blake Mycoskie Changing the face of business

Social entrepreneurship is not just a trend; it is a movement that is changing the face of business as we know it. The ability to not only connect with your consumer but to connect your consumer to a cause that is greater than their purchase is incredibly powerful. While on *The Amazing Race*, one of the countries that touched me the most was Argentina, so I traveled back there. I fell in love with the culture, passion, and life of the people who live there and was deeply moved by the poverty in which many Argentinians live.

In 2006, I decided to start a company that would combine business and philanthropy. TOMS is built on a One for One model — for every pair purchased, TOMS will give a pair of shoes to a child in need. Most businesses operate on a premise of exchanging services or goods for money — a true capitalistic model. With the tough economic times we are currently facing, the effectiveness of that model has diminished.

Conducting business that provides more

value to customers is a critical method in not only achieving measurable success, but more importantly in creating a social, ethical, and financial dialogue with your consumers. That, I think, is something that has happened at TOMS. Through Shoe Drops, TOMS supporters are able to travel with (the team) us on trips to Argentina to hand-deliver shoes to children who may have never owned a pair. So far, TOMS has given over 85,000 pairs of shoes to children in Argentina, South Africa, Ethiopia, and the U.S. And through the continued support of TOMS consumers, we have made it our mission to give 300,000 pairs of shoes in the next 12 months. When I first started in the business, I received the following words of advice that I'll never forget: "The more you give, the more you live," and we at TOMS intend to operate on that mantra for years to come.

BLAKE MYCOSKIE IS THE FOUNDER AND CHIEF SHOE GIVER OF TOMS SHOES. HE APPEARED ON *THE AMAZING RACE*.

OP-ED: Michael McKenna It isn't easy publicizing green

One of the challenges of working in public relations is that whenever you share news with people, they often assume you are trying to 'spin' them. Unfortunately there are many examples of public relations 'flaks' that support this cynical point of view. (Anyone see the recent political campaigns?)

As a result the media have their defenses up whenever they hear about the latest and greatest green initiatives. Don't get me wrong — they are covering it. It's one of the most important issues of our times and there is a lot of research that indicates people are inclined to support products and services from 'green' organizations. Google alone lists some 23,700,000 green stories out there as I write. "Being Green" sells news.

So let's just say it's sometimes hard to impress reporters in the particular media that are read or watched by the people Middlebury wants to reach.

However, the best public relations is always true, so Middlebury College is in better shape than most. We don't need to spin. We just tell the facts: Our environmental studies program was the first to be established in a liberal arts college. Our Snow Bowl was the first ski facility to go carbon neutral. Our students helped launch the bio-diesel bus tour trend. Our students continue to lead in environmental activism with such programs as Step it Up and 350.org. And our newest campus addition is a biomass facility that can change the way we capitalize on sustainable natural resources.

And we are lucky to have so many leaders in the field in our community, from professors like Jon Isham and John Elder, to Scholar-in-Residence Bill McKibben and Dean of Environmental Affairs Nan Jenks-Jay, among many

others. Their writing, research and actions provide the daily evidence to believe our stories.

Ideally one wants to be able to offer a "No kidding" story, as in when a reader or viewer sees something for the first time their reaction is "No kidding? I didn't know that. That is very interesting."

Those are the stories that get repeated — and when positive word of mouth spreads like that, we are doing our job. Because it's always better to have people saying nice things about us rather than having to say nice things about ourselves.

Fortunately Middlebury has had a great green story to tell for years, and we continue to build on that every day. We can present facts instead of hopes, accomplishments instead of aspirations, and results instead of rhetoric.

Together these facts often get the desired "No kidding," and start a chain reaction that leads to results like the Sierra Club rating Middlebury as the nation's coolest school, or Grist's list rankings of top environmental colleges, or highest marks according to the Sustainable Endowments Institute.

When you walk the walk while many others are just talking the talk, you build trust. Over time, and with lots of repetition, positive momentum builds. Reputations are made. Your name means something.

And while we occasionally hear from reporters, "Oh no, not another Middlebury story, our editors are getting tired of you guys," we keep getting good coverage. It's not easy, but the hard work here on the part of the entire community seems to be paying off.

MICHAEL MCKENNA IS THE COLLEGE'S VICE PRESIDENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS.

OP-ED: Jack Byrne In pursuit of sustainability

The current economic turmoil in the world comes with many lessons, some of which we know but seem to have forgotten. A core principle of economics involves the relationship between capital and interest: invest your capital wisely and spend the interest it earns. By some strange mathematics we had capital that was leveraged way beyond any realistic return on its investment and a lot of people are holding worthless IOUs because they believed in the impossible. Sometimes such illusion is useful, such as when pursuing grand aspirations of human achievement. But when it includes a disregard for some fundamental principles of how the world works, it can lead to disaster.

There's a parallel turmoil in the world of natural capital. I refer to the value of all the services nature provides us: flood surge protection by coastal mangrove swamps and estuaries, soil aeration and fertilizer production by earthworms, fish and shellfish food produced by the oceans, and so on. The best estimate of the value of the fertile soils, fresh water, breathable air, stable climate and the other life-support services provided by Mother Nature is \$33 trillion in 1997 dollars. That's about twice the global gross national product. Just like we treated our financial capital as though it could generate interest that was impossible, we are treating our natural capital as though it can provide impossible rates of interest.

The best measure of this imbalance is expressed by the ecological footprint which includes all the agricultural land, forests and fishing grounds required to supply the food, materials, and space we humans need to live. It also includes the ecosystem services mentioned above. By the best estimate available, at our current rate of consumption we have gobbled away about 25 percent of the earth's natural capital. At this rate we will need two earths by 2050.

I don't know how to create a second earth and I'd bet the smartest people on earth don't know either. We are smart enough however to learn and to act for our own self-interests. We are also capable of unselfish cooperation, which is what it will take to avoid kicking half the population off the planet if current trends continue. The countries with the biggest ecological footprints will have to reduce their consumption of natural resources while those with the smallest, with very few exceptions, will need to grow theirs in order for their people to have a dignified and adequate quality of life.

What will help us get there? For starters, it would make sense to put a price on the value of the ecosystem services that we do not include in the cost of the products and services we purchase. We did this years ago when we put a price on acid rain causing pollutants and it did wonders. There is legislation in the works now to put a price on carbon dioxide emissions and we

Notes from the desk: Alex Garlick The green/global contradiction

Middlebury is deservedly proud of its status as a global institution; the dozens of international flags flying off of the roof of Voter during commencement is a sight to be seen. It really shows how far some Middlebury students have come. But under the lens of sustainability, it literally shows how far students have come to be educated here. And these thousands of miles, powered by petroleum or jet fuel, have an inherent cost, a cost that a truly sustainable institution would be wrong to ignore.

Acknowledging contradictions like these is at the heart of our Green Issue, and there is no greater contradiction for the College than its desire to be carbon neutral and to be the first truly global liberal arts college. It should come as no surprise that our planet is facing an environmental crisis during the age of globalization; the two are inherently at odds.

Let's touch on the controversial topic of carbon neutrality. In order to be neutral, it cost *The Campus* \$12 in offsets to transport the newspaper 120 miles to be distributed here today. How much would it cost to trans-

port a student here several times annually for four years from Singapore, or to transport a professor back and forth to Monterrey, Calif. for a lecture? Undoubtedly, the cost would be much higher. While I feel the concept of carbon neutrality is itself arbitrary and suspect, quantifying one's environmental impact is useful. The College's global view, presence and students are at the core of the Middlebury experience, but they also pose a significant environmental challenge.

A global outlook is currently more central to the College's mission. Should the College change its priorities? In my opinion, absolutely not. *The Campus* editorial mentions that the primary purpose of sustainability measures is education. Is it blasphemous to make this statement in the very pages of the Green Issue? Judge for yourself, but like a local foods advocate who enjoys lettuce and bananas in the winter months, the College deserves to have its cake and eat it too.

ALEX GARLICK '08.5 IS THE OPINIONS EDITOR. HE IS FROM NEEDHAM, MASS.

In my humble opinion: Daniel Roberts Impact starts personally

My first thought about environmentalism, "I don't know much about it, and I don't care." Then I realized that this very apathy provides for compelling conversation. Sure, I've always refrained from littering, and separated plastic from paper (thank you, dorm room double trash bin system). But there are so many other measures we can take, and I know I should start getting involved. It's just so hard to care.

I know that I'm not alone in my apathy, because in my years here I, like many others, have often mocked "hippies" and scoffed at Sunday Night Group, Weybridge House, and other environmentally conscious students who I now envy and admire.

A big influence on my sudden decision to care about nature was when my adviser was discussing a new book he's working on about ecological references in Shakespeare. He explained his passion for the subject by admitting, "Like any other liberal professor in the Northeast, I think we have been (screwing) up our environment and we have to do something!" It didn't sound cheesy at all, but actually convincing and inspiring.

But it was also the election of Barack Obama that demonstrated that a bunch of educated, globally conscious people can have an impact if they work together. I have to believe that part of the reason he won was because voters could see that the other guy didn't care at all about "green" issues.

The challenge is to overcome an inadvertent self-centered approach to the world. From what I've read there are many ways to "get green." The idea is to select a level of participation that works for you. For example, I

found a Web site on "how to green your bathroom." They recommend turning the faucet off while you brush your teeth. I can do that! Then they encourage you not to shave in the shower, because it wastes water. That one is also doable. But next, they suggest that, in the shower, "Try shutting off the water while you soap up!" Nope. I'm just not going to do that.

And that's okay, right? It's all about doing whatever you can. It's like the guy who doesn't vote in elections because he figures, "What could my one vote do? It doesn't have any power." He's right that a single vote doesn't swing a presidential election (sorry Kevin Costner movie). But his logic is wrong because if everyone thought that way, no one would vote, and then there really would be an impact.

It can be surprising just to think about your personal impact. What's harder is to think about everyone else whom you can't control, so don't. Just focus on your own efforts. It's like how at Weight Watchers (this reference is funnier if you know me), they anticipate that people will think losing two pounds is nothing to be proud of, no big feat. So they tell you to fill a Ziploc bag with 2 lbs of butter, because it makes you say, "Holy hell, that's disgusting. And so heavy!"

Anyway, I'm going to start trying, and so should you. I'm going to stop buying Fiji water bottles that get thrown away, and instead buy one of those Sigg metal bottles. And I'm going to stop using harmful CFCs in the chemicals that run my giant corporate factory. Just kidding.

DANIEL ROBERTS '09 IS FROM NEWTON, MASS.

need to tell our political leaders that we want that done ASAP. We also need to support the creation of a global carbon trading system in which all countries participate including our own.

Closer to home, we each need to take a look at our own ecological footprints and ask "What choices could I make that would make a significant difference in my use of natural capital?" Little things add up quickly when a lot of people do them. For example, if every household in the US had energy saving compact fluorescent light bulbs we would reduce consumption of electricity by 35 percent, which would also significantly reduce the amount of climate warming carbon dioxide emitted to the atmosphere. The next time you need to replace a vehicle, get one that has higher mileage efficiency. In the meantime, look for ways to reduce the miles you travel alone in your vehicle. And so on. The point here is to make this kind of thinking and acting a habit. Each of us can pursue sustainability in our own unique ways while we work together for the bigger changes needed on the national and international front to assure that all of us here now and those to come will have a decent life on a healthy planet.

To calculate your own ecological footprint go to www.my-footprint.org.

JACK BYRNE IS THE COLLEGE'S DIRECTOR OF SUSTAINABILITY INTEGRATION.

Lupo Fiasco: Kate Lupo Green art's identity crisis

Environmental art has become ever more popular in a world that wishes to acknowledge and solve the problems of climate change. What is "environmental art" anyway and what sets it apart from other contemporary art? According to GreenMuseum.org, an online collaboration of environmental artists, environmental art helps improve humanity's relationship with the natural world and is oftentimes "ephemeral (made to disappear or transform), designed for a particular place (and can't be moved) or involves collaborations between artists and others, such as scientists, educators or community groups."

Middlebury's Committee for Art in Public Places (CAPP) brought two environmental artists to our campus last year: Deborah Fisher and Patrick Dougherty. Deborah Fisher created the cement and tire sculpture *Solid State Change* outside of Hillcrest and Patrick Dougherty set up shop in front of the CFA and made *So Inclined*, a grouping of his signature monumental "hive" sculptures made with local saplings.

While these sculptures were at least partially created to serve as reminders of Middlebury's commitment to the environment, they are not without controversy. Deborah Fisher's sculpture in particular sparked a storm of heated conversation and debate on the Middlebury campus, with many students wondering why Middlebury had paid money for such an "ugly" sculpture that looked like "trash." Patrick Dougherty's sculptures also had people asking why this "environmentally friendly" artist needed to kill hundreds of young tree saplings in order to create his art. These conversations had people thinking about what "environmental art" really means. Should environmental art be beautiful? Should it be environmentally efficient? How do we measure the success of an environmental artwork at all?

Deborah Fisher's *Solid State Change* certainly succeeded in creating debate and conversation on campus, but it did not succeed in translating its environmental message to the Middlebury community. I believe that *Solid State Change* would have been more likable and communicative if it had been installed indoors, which would have put the focus on the sculpture's impressive size and allowed people to more closely observe and appreciate the intricate work that went into each tire fold. *Solid State Change* could have also included a more informative and easily read label (not one hidden in the grass) if it had been placed indoors. A label would have helped viewers to better understand the environmental message of the artwork and how the cement base of *Solid State Change* was created to represent the geography of Middlebury and create a "symbiosis" with the recycled tires on top. As it is now installed outdoors, the sculpture is either ignored or scoffed at. Thus, we can see how the placement and presentation of environmental art is important in the interpretation of its message.

Patrick Dougherty's *So Inclined* sculptures are more aesthetically pleasing than *Solid State Change* and the process of weaving the sculptures created a closer relationship between the artist, volunteers and the natural environment, but wasn't the destruction of hundreds of saplings a contradiction of Dougherty's environmental message?

These public sculptures at Middlebury have shown how environmental art is not always easy to define and understand, which means that the public must begin to look at this new type of art in a new way. Perhaps we should not simply judge the success of an environmental artwork by its aesthetic beauty, but by how well the artwork furthers an environmental message in its materials, location, installation, etc.

It is important that people at Middlebury questioned both Patrick Dougherty and Deborah Fisher's works as contradictions of their environmental themes. As I mentioned before, people lamented Dougherty's use of harvested saplings in his 'environmental art,' while others were troubled by the fact that the transportation of Fisher's huge sculpture from New York to Vermont probably wasted gasoline and produced pollution. As environmental art begins to change the face of the Art World, we should all continue to voice our opinions to help rethink and redefine what "environmental art" should be in the 21st century.

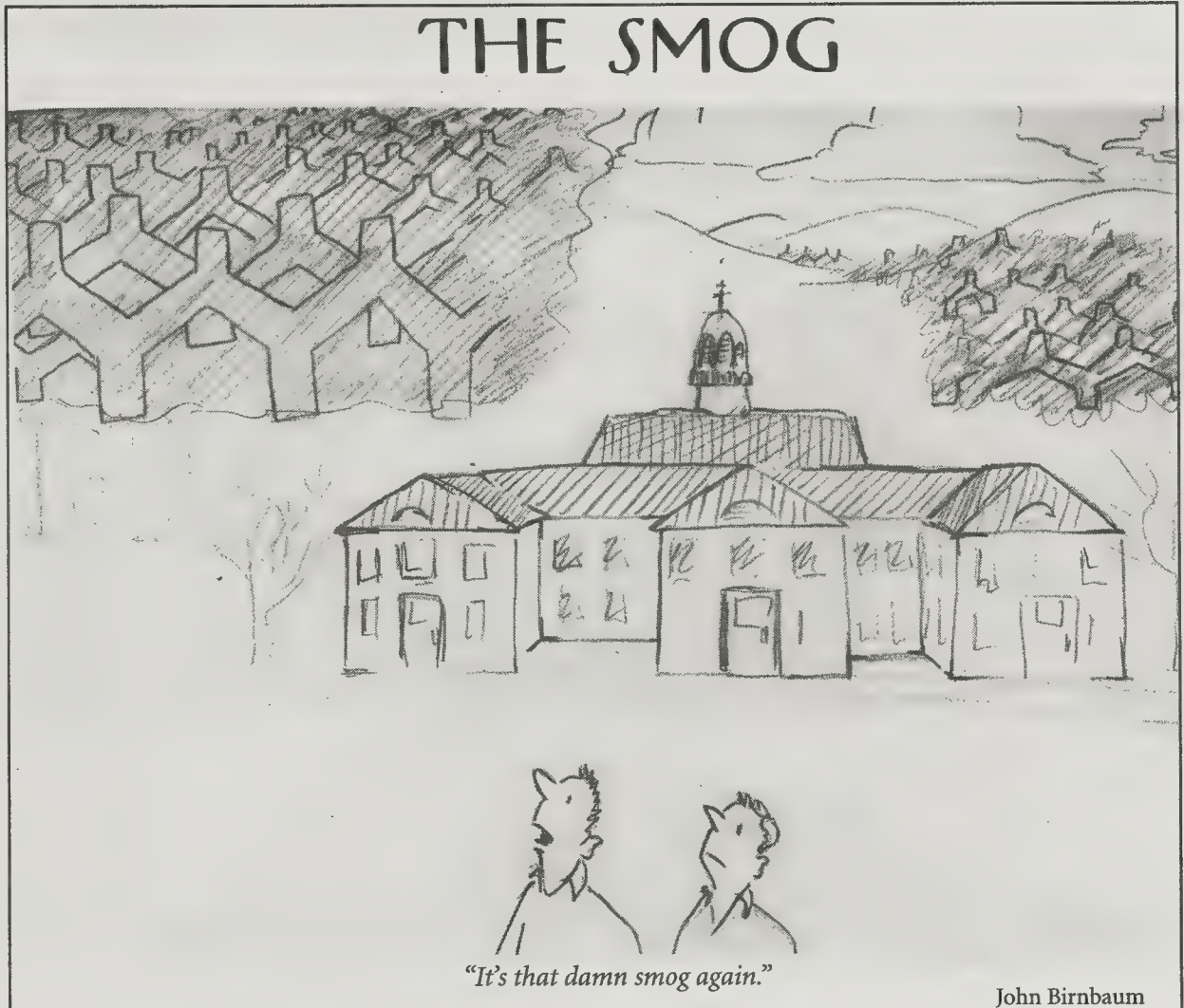
KATE LUPO '10 IS FROM WESTON, CONN.

OP-ED: Kevin Redmon Appearances aren't enough

The mailman delivering to my Washington apartment is not known for his attention to detail. I end up with a lot of other people's magazines this way. Normally I crumple up the pages to stuff into the crumbling masonry of my poorly constructed and very drafty basement room. Yesterday's wayward arrival gave me pause, though.

Plenty magazine is a self-consciously stylish harbinger of the eco-revolution to come. Replete with features like Miss Eco Etiquette, Green Gear, Eco-Eats and The Dirt — "celebrity gossip from an eco perspective" — the publication feels like a middle school girl who wants very badly to fit in. With features on the movement's darling children Gore and DiCaprio, reviews of recycled Patagonia jackets, recipes for "green cocktails," and discussions of whether wrapping Christmas presents is morally (that is, environmentally) reprehensible, it is a magazine that misses the disease while diagnosing the symptoms.

The editors revel in the providential good fortune that refurbishing one's countertops with certified bamboo or shopping for responsibly-panned Sierra Leonean diamonds are now selfless acts demonstrating environmental concern. What luck, that we can save the planet by ensuring that our next pair of Ferragamos is sewn of



John Birnbaum

OP-ED: Jon Isham Educating for a greener future

With all due respect to my fellow faculty members, I'd like to think that Nick Muller and I, with joint appointments in Economics and Environmental Studies, have the best teaching jobs on campus. Our students not only study the great challenges of this century; if we're doing our job, they also acquire the critical tools to begin to take them on. So many of the students who are burning the midnight oil in Warner and Hillcrest these days (and yes, soon they'll be burning biomass!) are learning to think like economists and ecologists.

I admit, though, it's not really the choice of discipline that determines whether students are acquiring tools to lead a life of meaning. Biology, Political Science, Dance: randomly choose any major in the Middlebury College catalogue and you'll find a unique, valid means to understand the world's complexities. And there's one other thing you can be sure of at Middlebury: behind every major are outstanding scholars.

But in these changing times, how can we faculty members do even better? It can be difficult for modern educators to connect the everyday experiences of the student — what is immediately observable and within the grasp of even the most sophisticated student's worldview — with the systemic challenges that the global community now faces: stabilizing the climate, alleviating poverty, and expanding human rights. I've recently adopted an approach called "open-source learning" to increase the odds of success. This approach includes five basic elements: a non-hierarchical classroom; group-based learning within the classroom; network-based learning across classroom walls; real-time creation of knowledge; and knowledge creation for the common good.

In the spirit of John Dewey's vision of the civic purpose of democracy, the open-source classroom is dedicated to the proposition that the classroom has a public purpose. In a non-hierarchical classroom, students are taught that knowledge which they create is potentially as legitimate and important as knowledge from elsewhere. Through group-based learning within the classroom, students learn the importance of persuasion, reflection, and collaboration. Network-based learning across classroom walls — for example, analyzing data for a social-service agency — dramatically expands the scope of enquiry. Perhaps most importantly, the joint call for real-time creation of knowledge and knowledge creation for the common good lets students know that what they learn now can matter for others, now.

I have found that that open-source approach is consistent with three aspects of a successful 21st-century classroom: developing students' awareness of their own agency sustainably culled, free-range leather. Fact: the "green-collar" jobs that environmentalists love to promote won't be filled by workers who spend a lot of time choosing between organic vodkas.

Plenty is a small part of a larger, problematic trend: the eco-movement is preoccupied with appearances rather than dialogue. Underlying this, there is a tremendous amount of energy being devoted to creating a "green identity." Environmentalism and all its discontents — climate change, deforestation, ad nauseum — are at peril of being reduced to a slogan and a brand image. It's simplistic and it's dangerous. Why? Because it replaces nuance with ideology, complexity

(what William James calls "the ability of a person to structure and make sense of her life experience"); assigning challenging content (for example, analyzing the interrelated determinants of poverty); and using the power of networks in this digital age (our students, masters of the world of Facebook and Kiva.org, need little nudging here!) Ultimately, to challenge students with the open-source approach is to ask students about their own role in effecting social change. And critically, doing so can lead to the self-discovery that is the very core of the educational experience. As Ron Nahser, a scholar of pragmatism puts it: "Through inquiry, you find what you do believe, your values and vision."

Given the traditions behind the liberal arts model, it is not difficult to take on this call for open-source, pragmatic inquiry. In his recent *Save the World on Your Own Time*, Stanley Fish writes that the professor's job is to: (1) introduce students to equip bodies of knowledge and traditions of inquiry that had not previously been part of their experiences; and (2) equip those same students with the analytical skills — of argument, statistical modeling, laboratory procedure — that will enable them to move confidently within these traditions and to engage independent research after a course is over.

I believe that the first part of Fish's formula is paramount. Indeed, users of the open-source approach can flounder (at times I have) without it. To eschew analysis, to jump right into "problem-solving" dilutes what students learn and sells them short. Above all, higher education needs rigor.

But (rigorous) open-source learning calls for a modification of Fish's final phrase: it should read "and to lead collaborative research while a course is underway." The end result of matching Fish's call for comprehensive rigor with pragmatic, meaningful inquiry? The opportunity to achieve, in this challenging new century, John Dewey's ideal: education as "the fundamental method of social progress and reform."

My confidence about this approach is not solely based on my own experiences in the classroom. It also comes from the outcomes of many comparable experiences on campuses nationwide. For example, scholars at MIT and Berkeley have successfully guided students in the design of clean-energy solutions. Here at Middlebury, open-source learning can help Middlebury students to prepare for a life of meaning in a challenging new century.

JON ISHAM IS THE LUCE PROFESSOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS. HE CO-EDITED *IGNITION: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIGHT GLOBAL WARMING AND START A MOVEMENT*.

with dichotomy — us vs. them, greens vs. everyone else. With regard to affecting real change, though: you can't get there from here.

It's time to abandon our misguided faith in continued consumption, as if consuming differently can preclude consuming less. The indomitable Ed Abbey cautioned against precisely what *Plenty* champions: "Growth for the sake of growth is the ideology of the cancer cell." It is a Faustian bargain that consumer culture is striking with eco-entrepreneurs. *Caveat emptor*.

KEVIN REDMON '09 IS FROM MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

● PLATTSBURGH



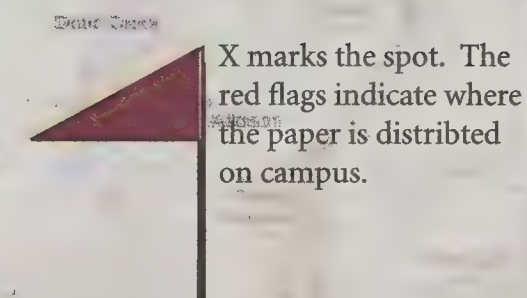
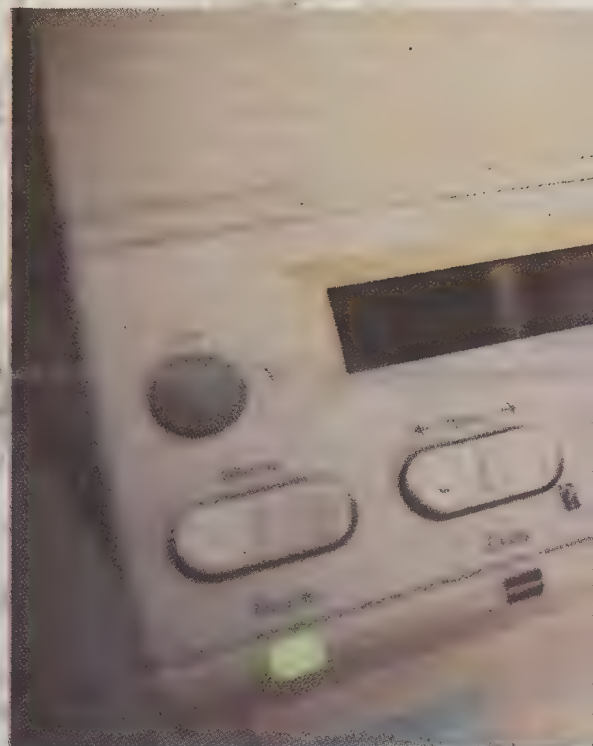
From our earliest discussions of making this issue, we knew t
— the week's content would focus on pressing environmental issues,
change certain aspects of our normal production in an effort to fully
lishing. Below are examples of some of those adjustments that we m
week has inspired us to explore.

What do silver halide particles, mercury, table salt, and egg whites ha
taking and making of photographs. Beginning in 1837, with the invention of
to experiment with different combinations of chemicals and processes, all in
sitivity and image longevity. But besides being messy and emitting strange o
production of a single traditional photograph could mean toxic chemicals an
not to mention lots of failed attempts that end up crumpled in the trash.

With the inception of digital photography in the 1980s, this mess gav
image file. No more egg whites, no more mercury, and a reduced environme
um. Our very own *Campus* photographers used to spend hours in the darkro
Photoshop and never print a page. And while there is something quite pleas
our purposes you really can't beat a memory card and a USB cord.

One of the questions that often goes unasked (and necessarily unan-
swered) about those newspapers waiting patiently for readers in the dining halls,
library, Grille or myriad other places on campus is how they got there. To mini-
mize the negative environmental effect of delivering our papers, we purchased
carbon offsets from Vermont-based Na-
tiveEnergy to offset the trip from Platts-
burgh, N.Y. (the location of our printer)
to Middlebury. We bought \$12 worth of
offsets, which neutralized the 0.056 tons
of CO₂ emission from driving a total of
114.55 miles. Once in Middlebury, *The
Campus* editorial board delivered the
papers by foot or bike, a route that is
normally done by car.

— Jack Lysohir, Managing Editor



MIDDLEBURY



the green issue

Middlebury Campus

20 November 2008 **13**

...ue, we knew the most effective approach would be twofold
mental issues, of course, but we would also endeavor to
effort to fully understand the implications of green pub-
nts that we made, or at the very least, of ideas that the past

Layout by Hannah Wilson

Photos by Andrew Ngeow and Angela Evancie

egg whites have in common? They have all been employed in the
the invention of the daguerreotype, scientists and artists alike began
processes, all in the name of finding the perfect balance of light sen-
siting strange odors, these processes proved wasteful. Even today, the
ic chemicals and 20 gallons of fresh water washed down the drain,
n the trash.

this mess gave way to thousands of neat little pixels comprising an
ed environmental impact for a once materially extravagant medi-
s in the darkroom on production night; these days we tinker with
ng quite pleasing about a vintage black and white photograph, for
ord.

— Angela Evancie, Photography Editor



The obvious irony of a newspaper producing a green issue is that it has to print thou-
sands of pages of paper in order to highlight environmental issues. Though it draws about 80
percent of its readership online, *The Campus* distributes over 2,000 hard copies of every weekly
24-page issue. As a result, challenges existed to make the printing process as environmentally
friendly as possible. Fortunately, The Press Republican (our printer) assured the editorial board
that the paper was already in good, green hands. The paper used for each issue of *The Campus* is
80 percent recycled and completely biodegradable. Furthermore, the Press Republican uses soy-
based, petroleum free and compost-friendly ink when printing. Despite our initial thinking that
a black and white newspaper would be more environmentally sound, the difference of printing
in color turned out to be negligible. The process requires minimal electricity as well, with *The
Campus* taking all but ten minutes to completely run off the presses.

— Scott Greene, Editor-in-Chief



Our office is located in a dark, leaky basement where, on a
good day, the climate seems to vacillate between arctic and tropi-
cal. As such, we sometimes forget the good conservationist measures
that Middlebury has instilled in us and throw caution to the wind,
leaving lights and monitors on, opening windows when the heater is
churning, and printing article drafts in — gasp — single-sided mode.
Recently, we employed brilliantly named “Kill A Watt” devices to
discover that, if left running indefinitely, our seven computers nor-
mally use around eight dollars of electricity on a weekly basis. And so,
to pay homage to the Green Issue (and, perhaps, to absolve our guilty
consciences), we decided to be extra mindful of our paper and energy
usage this week, making all of our edits directly onto our computers
(thus saving over 200 sheets of paper) and working during the day-
light hours whenever possible.

— Tess Russell, Features Editor



Meaghen Brown

Dining Services scores on local food initiatives

The College strives to reduce waste while supporting area farmers

By Rachael Jennings
FEATURES EDITOR

In the commotion of Ross Dining Hall, you brave the line and emerge with a plate of chicken parmesan, unaware that you are part of a chain of sustainability and environmental awareness that has resulted in the steaming poultry dish in your hands.

Middlebury Dining Services' primary source, Burlington Food Services, has provided many of the ingredients in the chicken parmesan — including the parmesan itself, which hails from Schuman Parmesan and Great Lakes Parmesan.

Even the room in which you stand is environmentally engineered — natural sunlight spills in from the westerly facing windows and energy efficient lighting brightens the setting in the evening. Ross Dining Hall was designed with environmental concerns in mind: the faucets in the kitchen are low-flow faucets, the energy generated from the walk-in freezers is used to heat the mechanical workroom, and automatic sensors keep the air conditioning in check as the demand for cooling rises and falls.

"Green' is something that we as a College and a department live every day," said Matthew Biette, director of Dining Services. "I believe this has a lot to do with the fact that Middlebury began an Environmental Studies program back in 1965. That and the fact that Vermont has had a very proactive approach to land stewardship for generations have led us all to be more green."

Indeed, the College has been buying local foods for decades, if not centuries. Dining Services has been composting with the College for over 15 years and, just last year, they removed trays from the dining halls to help the College reach its carbon reduction goals. Serving upwards of 7,000 meals a day, it is imperative that the College work to maintain efficient and environmentally friendly dining practices. These efforts are displayed through the efficient presentation of meals, the implementation of local food, and effective waste management.

Before digging into a meal, there are preventative measures you can take to ensure less wastefulness. Each incoming class of first-year students is given Nalgene and reusable Middlebury Cupps Mugs. At large outdoor functions, the College uses melamine reusable plates. These seemingly minor actions actually influence healthier consumer habits among students from the start of their Middlebury careers.

One of the biggest measures the College took was the

recent abolition of trays from the dining halls. Though that decision may have made sledding a bit more difficult, it significantly decreased the amount of waste we produce simply by making students more aware of exactly what — and how much — they want to eat.

In the winter, the dining halls provide salad greens from Florida and California. Still, even after the ice snakes over the sidewalks, Dining Services finds ways to support organic and locally grown food.

All of the College's milk products are produced at Monument Farms in Weybridge. The barrels of Wilcox Dairy ice cream in the dining halls hail from nearby Manchester, Vt. The dining hall's shell eggs are from Maple Meadows in Salisbury; the maple syrup that compliments the pancakes on the weekends is made in Starksboro and Bristol; and all of the apples come from four local orchards, which also produce the cider, apple slices for pies and applesauce in the dining halls. Many of the vegetables come from local farms via Burlington Food Services and Black River Produce.

"Buying local foods — which in turn supports the local economy — is extremely important to us," stressed Biette.

Even with the current state of the economy, Dining Services is adamant about continuing to buy locally.

"We are looking at other ways of buying foods so that we may keep our local purchases the same," said Biette. "We are actually looking to local farms to grow certain crops for us thus making more local purchasing possible."

The Middlebury College Organic Garden (MCOG) sells about 80 percent of what it grows to Dining Services, 15 percent to local restaurants and donates the remaining five percent to the Addison County Food Shelf. MCOG workers also sell their bottled honey retail through the Center for the Arts Box Office.

In the weeks between the end of the Language Schools and the beginning of the fall semester, MCOG sells its produce to restaurants in Middlebury. Out of their earned income from vegetable sales, they are able to purchase supplies, seeds, equipment and tools.

"I think more people want to know where their food comes from and how it is grown," said Jay Leshinsky, director of MCOG. "I think that has led to a revival of home gardening and also to a more widespread desire to know about and use organic gardening methods."

Local farms and MCOG help support the environmental vision of Dining Services. As always, Dining Services will also

continue to prepare many of their menu items from scratch, an act which avoids the waste often produced in corporate "open a box and go" methods.

Even with all of the effort behind the production and presentation of the food, though, some waste is inevitable. On a national scale, food waste comprises about seven percent of the solid waste stream. The College has attempted to lower that figure, converting nearly 300 tons of food waste into compost for greenhouses and gardens. Food preparation scraps and other waste items — such as paper napkins and paper towels — which comprise about 70 percent of Middlebury's food waste are all composted now.

As for that extra chicken parmesan or the crust of the Toll-house Cookie pie you simply could not finish — these items, referred to as "plate waste," are run through a pulper, a process that removes excess water.

Other frequently used measures that help reduce dining waste include the "Grille technique." This familiar method employs three public sorting stations, labeled "trash," "recycling," and "compost," in which diners can dispose of their plate waste. These bins are a simple tool for sorting waste, which show that all it takes to help reduce our footprint is a flick of the wrist in the right direction.

Since the College stopped using trays, one ounce of waste per meal has been saved — and an ounce can actually add up to as much as three-quarters of a pound of true waste, depending on how water-soluble the material is. This figure includes the pulped or dry waste in combination with the pre-consumer vegetable scraps.

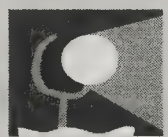
In order to monitor waste patterns, Dining Services constantly tweak their menus for acceptance.

"We try to give the appropriate serving utensils so that over portioning does not happen," added Biette.

These dining decisions are just some of the ways that Dining Services is trying to make students think before they eat, by showing us how beneficial reexamining our dining practices truly is.

"We are a leader and people often ask me how they, too, can be leaders," said Biette. "What they don't realize is that we think a certain way; we don't look at a list of things to do and then check them off. Our staff, our faculty and our students often have conversations that bring about another great idea. We had independent studies that revolved around a greenhouse way before people were into that. At Middlebury, 'green' is part of the way we think and run the business."

Spotlight on Midd alumni
See what alumni are doing to impact the environment, page 16.



100% organic
The Middlebury College Organic Garden continues to inspire, page 16.



ES major finds popularity
Middlebury proves a rightful home to the increasing number of ES majors, page 16.

Recycling center leads by example

By Hannah Wilson
LAYOUT EDITOR

Take a moment and look into your personal recycling bin. What do you see — some empty cans? A few pieces of paper? That moldy orange you meant to eat last week?

Soon your can will fill up, but what happens then? Will you do the socially responsible thing and sort everything into centralized containers, or do you, like most Middlebury students, think, 'This is mostly recyclable' and dump everything into one of the College's many recycling bins without the slightest afterthought as to what happens next?

When your recycling leaves your room, the next stop is not a magical transformation into new plastic bottles and printer paper, but rather a time-consuming process. Your bags of co-mingled recycling are picked up and placed outside of the buildings by the custodial staff and then transported to the recycling center, located near Ridgeline parking lot, via truck.

"In the ideal world — Alice in Wonderland — every community member would take their waste and place the glass into the mixed containers, paper into the green paper one, and other assorted trashing into the trash bin," said Missy Beckwith, waste management supervisor for the Center.

The five permanent staff members at the Center and various student workers then sort through all of the recycling bags using a gloved hand and place the materials into balers based on eight different categories, including four different types of paper and four different types of plastic. Once the materials are sorted they are then placed into balers and packaged for sale to a distributor in Rutland. The goal of the Center is to divert 60 percent of College waste from landfills.

"We're different [from other colleges] because we are doing the baling work here," said Beckwith. "Rather than having a baler come to us, then ship it to their warehouse, we take some of the steps out by sorting on campus and then shipping to the baler."

They turn in all those five cent aluminum cans and 10 cent glass bottles, as well. In fact, recycling saves the College \$110 per ton of by not sending it to the landfill.

"It saves us from having to throw all the recycling away and it helps out the environment by adding to the ultimate goal of carbon neutrality by 2016," said John Gosselin, team leader at the Center.

The weight of the College's waste is also reduced by composting most pre- and post-consumer (i.e., dining hall) food.

"Some departments, including the Robert A. Jones house and the Environmental colloquium, showed enough interest in composting to coordinate with us to compost the leftover luncheon food," said Beckwith.

However, helping to save the environment and conserve College funds is not always easy. Over the years students have become increasingly more removed from the recycling program on campus, which was initially proposed by Professor of Environmental Studies Stephen Trombulak's senior seminar in 1988.

"The students who put the original plan together were taking a class with me," wrote Trombulak in an e-mail. "But they were energized and actively engaged in the project. It would be more accurate to call it a student-faculty collaboration under the umbrella of a senior capstone course for the Environmental Studies major."

Students then worked as consultants, analyzing the possibility of a program at Middlebury.

"Once we completed the research, we presented our results to then-Treasurer [David] Ginevan, highlighting the payback time periods under different scenarios for the increase in disposal costs," wrote Trombulak. "Ginevan was impressed enough by the analyses as well as the philosophical arguments about the college's environmental responsibility to 'do the right thing' that he authorized the creation of the recycling program."

Initially the program was operated mostly

by students setting up bins around campus and collecting the recycling using a single truck and sorting in an old coal storage room near the service building. Now, there are around 20 students who work flexible hours alongside the permanent staff at the completely independent Center.

Alyssa Krone '12 is one of them. "Working here makes me feel like I am being useful instead of just having an on campus job," said Krone. "It is really beneficial to the campus as it is trying to be ecologically sustainable and responsible."

Unfortunately, student interest and awareness has declined on campus since the Center became institutionalized.

"There are two things that I recommend

We're being environmentally responsible, but are we being socially responsible by letting a few people do everyone's work?

— Missy Beckwith

students do — the first is to visit the Recycling Center within your first year at Middlebury to see how it works. It is a shame when seniors stop by and say, 'I never knew this was here.' And secondly, to hold each other accountable. Peer pressure is the only way to gain any ground," urged Beckwith.

A round trip to the Center takes around 45 minutes, or less if you live in the Mods. Located next to the wind turbine, which produces on average 25 percent of the energy required to power the Center, it was built out of recycled concrete

from the old science building to look like an antique Vermont barn. The ceiling height may appear daunting; however, it was constructed in order to allow the truck to raise its back door high enough to dump all of the recycling into the Center. Even just peering inside the doors of the the Center is an eye-opening experience. The imposing space is used to hold balers and bins full of co-mingled, "dirty" (improperly sorted) recycling. It is not a pretty sight.

"We're being environmentally responsible, but are we being socially responsible by letting a few people do everyone's work?" asked Beckwith.

Not only do you see firsthand how much trash is produced by the College, but visiting the Center is also a good opportunity to visit the reuse trailers.

"The reuse trailer works in two ways," said Beckwith. "For us it is a way for things that can't be recycled to be saved from the trash, and for students and the community it is an easy way to leave things they can't take with them at the end of the school year," said Beckwith.

When the trailers open up, about two weeks after clean out ends, community members line up outside of the Center to claim anything and everything students leave behind. These items have ranged from an organ, to everyday clothes, to assorted coffeemakers and even the occasional microwave. At the beginning of the school year, two trailers are open (from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) — one for soft goods, like clothing, shoes and bedding, and one for household items and school supplies. After two weeks, all of the unclaimed clothes and soft goods are donated to charity and the Center only maintains one trailer.



Kate Fisher

Bags of co-mingled recycling are tossed into large bins before being sorted and baled. This is one of several steps the Recycling Center takes to reduce the amount of waste amassed by the Middlebury Campus.

Dr. Jesse, B.A.



by Jesse Davidson

If you want to call yourself an athlete, but don't want to deal with physical contact, sweating, or heavy breathing, I think I have found your sport. You need only three accessories — a big stick, a piece of metal, and fondness for all things slippery. In a competitive sport known as "worm grunting," found in Florida and other southern states, an "athlete" sees how many earthworms he or she can pluck from the ground in a limited amount of time, the record firmly standing today at 511 worms in 30 minutes. There is no digging involved, though. The competitor stabs the stick into the ground, shears the top with a metal file or saw (creating a grunting sound), and waits eagerly as earthworms struggle to the surface of the soil for immediate capture.

While this technique has been used for many years by fisherman to score some free bait, not until last month has science swooped in and found that this shearing of metal-on-stick produces the same sound frequencies as a burrowing mole — an earthworm epicure. A worm gets fooled into coming to the soil surface to escape death, but ends up in a tally as a sports statistic. Humans have a lot more to attribute to earthworms besides entertaining country bumpkins, though. In 1881, Charles Darwin warmly described them as such: "It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures." If they weren't already red, I'm sure they'd be blushing.

In giving credit where it is due, worms are our most respected underground act (sorry, haus) because they do the same thing as farmers before planting crops: they till and aerate the soil. More importantly, though, several types of worms have been receiving waves of media coverage in the past decade because they have the ability to turn all kinds of toxic waste into nutrient-rich compost, usable as detoxified fertilizer. The best part about worm labor is that they don't care about their working conditions, as long as there is garbage or something funky to munch on — one species' idea of a corner office is a pile of manure. Landfill waste management today makes use of these worms to break down organic materials before bacteria can do so, preventing the release of noxious gases like methane and nitrous oxides (which are much more potent effectors of climate change than carbon dioxide).

Although I sing their praises in this column as some of our most significant sustainability leaders, I have to make a personal apology to earthworms. I have no regard for them. When I see them splayed out on the sidewalk after a heavy rain, I have to bite my lip and trudge on to BiHall, trying not to cringe when I feel their soft ketchup-packet bodies under my feet. Horrible, I know. With a thesis looming, my "move it or lose it" attitude does not give me time to tiptoe up College Street. The next time you find yourself in a similar situation though, try your best not to look down; you may begin to feel differently about your carbon footprint.

ES evolves into key part of College's identity

By Tess Russell
FEATURES EDITOR

At the outset of the 1994 academic year, President Emeritus John McCardell delivered an all-campus address that highlighted distinct areas in which the College had emerged as a national leader. McCardell imagined that these "Peaks of Excellence," as he dubbed them, extended far beyond the classroom, though — more than a decade later — the phrase tends to be employed most often in an academic context. As students, we now universally accept Middlebury's unique "excellence" in certain fields like literature, foreign languages, international studies and environmental studies (ES). And yet, the inclusion of the College's environmental curriculum in McCardell's vision was quite remarkable in 1994, considering that the ES major had been on the verge of extinction just a few years earlier.

The ES major, founded in 1965, was the first of its kind started at any undergraduate institution in the United States — other leaders in the field included Brown University, Dartmouth College and the University of Vermont, where similar interdepartmental programs were established in the 1970s. Initially, ES was quite amorphous in that it depended entirely upon faculty hired through other departments. It is worth noting that the College's infamous Northern Studies (NS) major also began as a freestanding (non-departmental) program, later becoming a track in the Geography department and then a focus in the ES major before being terminated.

Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Stephen Trombulak clarified the relationship, or lack thereof, between NS and ES in his response to a question about whether the NS major ever produced environmentally conscious alumni.

"This is a bit like asking whether the Math Department or the Studio Art Department ever produced environmentally conscious alums," wrote Trombulak in an e-mail. "I can't imagine that they did not. In my experience, Midd alums from across the full spectrum of the majors offered here have gone on to be environmentally conscious."

Though the ES major retained consistent, if low, numbers of participating students throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s, its popularity soon fell off drastically, as evidenced by the complete dearth of ES majors graduating in the Class of 1988. At this point, the College enlisted Trombulak and John Elder, professor of English and American Literatures and Environmental Studies, to revitalize the ES program. Soon after, Professor of Political Science and Environmental Studies Christopher Klyza joined the faculty — significantly, Klyza was the first purposeful ES hire in the College's history. With Trombulak and Elder, he began to work on restructuring the major, and the three of them ultimately designed a program

centered on four principal core courses that is virtually identical to today's ES curriculum.

Klyza explained that McCardell's 1994 pledge was far from empty rhetoric. With the resurging popularity of the major in the mid-1990s, ES was in desperate need of additional faculty so that introductory courses could be taught more than once a year.

"[McCardell's address] suggested that the College was going to follow through with more support for the ES program, which they have," said Klyza. "It also coincided with [Professor Emeritus of Religion] Steven Rockefeller's 'Pathways for a Green Campus' report and the formation of the College's Environmental Council, which became the Energy Council. Theoretically, [academic initiatives at Middlebury] feed off of the larger commitments made by the College as an entity."

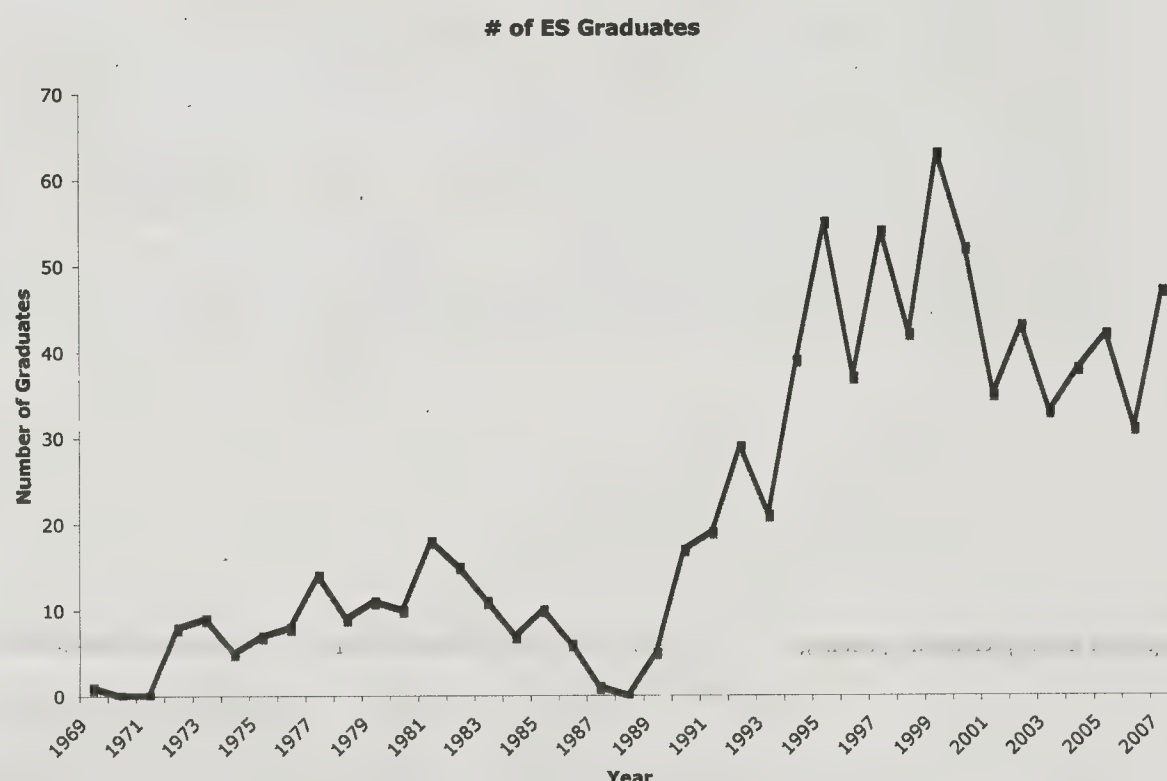
The ES faculty now includes nine full-time professors — including Trombulak, Klyza and Director of Environmental Studies Kathy Morse — though there are a total of 53 faculty

members that are affiliated with the program and can thus serve in advisory capacities to students.

The graphic pattern of students majoring in ES over the past 40 years, explained Klyza, conforms to a sort of S-curve; since 2001, the number of graduates in ES has hovered in the 30s and 40s. Currently, the College has approximately 100 students among the sophomore, junior and senior classes who are declared ES majors, putting it in the top five most popular programs at the College. Students who receive ES degrees go on to have an impact in fields as varied as environmental consulting, green architecture and design, ecological research and green public policy.

To Klyza, the 2007 completion of the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest has been a perfect marker of the crest in importance of ES to the College's mission.

"When my window is open, I hear the campus tours come by, and they talk about the major and how it is part of Middlebury's identity now," said Klyza.



Courtesy
Over time, the popularity of the ES major has been greatly influenced by student activism and College support.

Midd alums continue environmental activism

SPOTLIGHT ON: Alexander Lee '97

In 1995, as a Middlebury student, Alexander Lee helped organize a peace-themed symposium at the College. Helen Caldicott, an Australian physician and founder of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Physicians for Social Responsibility, delivered a speech admonishing her audience to rethink their reliance on dryers — according to Caldicott, if we all hung our clothes out to dry, we could shut off the world's nuclear power plants.

Lee, an Environmental Studies major who wrote his honors thesis about Bill McKibben's research before McKibben was employed at the College, was deeply affected by Caldicott's words. After graduating, he began to work "furiously" on the project that would ultimately become today's widely lauded non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, Project Laundry List. He attended law school before ultimately moving to New Hampshire and starting the Project Laundry List Web site 18 months ago.

In a recent New York Times article, Lee cited a Pew Research Center figure that "83 percent of the population thinks that the dryer is an essential appliance." Project Laundry List seeks to eliminate this perception by encouraging citizens to hang-dry their clothes, and enacting "Right to Dry" legislation to allow clotheslines in municipalities where they are currently illegal. They have already had success in parts of Hawaii, Colorado and New York, and legislation will be introduced again in the coming months in New Hampshire and Connecticut, as well as here in Vermont.

"Legislation is a major part of it," said Lee, "but we also try to just generally help communities become greener by allowing compost heaps, window air conditioners and gardening."

Lee is still actively involved with the College Community. Not long ago, he coordinated a survey with the Office of Sustainability Integration which suggested that over 40 percent of Middlebury students already have drying racks in their rooms — so, he said, "the infrastructure is there" for us to cut back significantly on our electrical drying dependency, though most of us are probably underutilizing the racks that we have. Furthermore, he has collaborated with Facilities Management, even convincing them to employ new Aquawing Ozone Injection Systems (AWOIS) cold water washing technology (www.awois.com) in the College's gym facilities. AWOIS has been revolutionary in large institutions, like prisons, because it significantly reduces operating costs and energy expenditures while still effectively eradicating super bugs and other bacteria.

— Tess Russell, Features Editor

SPOTLIGHT ON: Nicolas Boillot '87

After leaving the environmentally centered campus of Middlebury College, many former students go on to pursue careers focused in or supportive of the environment. One such alumnus — Nicolas Boillot — runs a branding, design and public relations firm called Hart-Boillot. His firm has incorporated green issues into its practice in a variety of ways — from working with clean technology and renewable energy companies to using their public relations division to help these companies gain publicity.

"Towards this end, we look to the rapidly emerging clean tech sector to work with organizations that are likely to do well and do good at the same time," explained Boillot.

Boillot and his co-workers have developed their clean tech practice because his employees understand and care about the global challenges that exist in today's world and because they believe that clean tech will be a growing industry under the spotlight for many years.

"The world's geopolitical and social problems will grow dramatically if we do not address our global environmental challenges," said Boillot. "Our management and employees feel strongly about doing what we can with our business to help get the planet back on a safer trajectory for long-term human survival and quality of life."

How does Hart-Boillot manage this green mentality on an everyday scale?

"Our office is colder than it used to be in winter, and warmer in summer," admitted Boillot.

Employees also bring in reusable containers such as Nalgene and Camelbak water bottles, use recycled paper, plastic and metal, turn off the lights whenever they do not need them and carpool when possible. Many employees bring their own ideas of how to work in a more responsible way — they print less frequently, use half pages of paper for company meeting agendas, bring coffee mugs with them to work instead of wasting disposable cups and read publications online.

In addition, workers at Hart-Boillot take their work ethic back to their homes — many use compact fluorescent lamps for lighting and compost regularly.

"There has been unanimous support (for greener practices at Hart-Boillot)," said Boillot. The small alterations in daily activities and the large-scale company decisions have impacted the firm, the employees and all those with whom Hart-Boillot does business.

— Rachael Jennings, Features Editor

Murdoch '09.5 cleans up her act

Student researches solutions to the coal crisis

By Grace Duggan
ARTS EDITOR

Most people probably would not take their last semester off from Middlebury to spend several months working in West Virginia to promote the nationwide prioritizing of alternatives to clean coal technology, but Sierra Murdoch — now a member of the Class of 2009.5 — is doing just that. Following an internship she will complete on campus with seven other Middlebury students this Winter Term, Murdoch, who has been hired in part by Project 350, expects to remain in West Virginia through July facilitating continued discussion of the issues surrounding the ominous consequences of the continued use of coal as an energy source.

The impetus for this internship — as well as the continuation of Murdoch's efforts through the spring — grew out of a fruitful conference held this past April and attended by Luce Professor of International Environmental Economics Jon Isham at the Garrison Institute. These three inspiring days looked to the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and prompted Isham to consider how Gandhi — whose grandson attended the conference — may have approached the current climate crisis. Following his return to campus, Isham continued the dialogue started at the Garrison Institute with other Middlebury faculty, including Associate Professor of Religion Rebecca Gould, Professor of English and American Literatures John Elder and Scholar-in-Residence in Environmental Studies Bill McKibben, along with a number of Middlebury students who showed interest in participating in what is already an important national and global issue.

Though still in the preliminary planning stages, the internship marks a collaborative effort between Murdoch, Eleanor Horowitz '11, Michaela O'Connor '11, Lois Parshley '11, Katelyn Romanov '11, Peter Spyrou '10.5, Matt Vaughan '09 and Ben Wessel '11, each of whom brings to the table varying levels of familiarity with this particular component of the overall climate movement. The students will tackle the complex web of issues surrounding coal, one that includes learning about mountain top removal, alternative energy sources and the possibility of facilitating the development of a green economy in coal country.

Given the magnitude of success Middlebury students have had participating in past initiatives, both locally and nationally, standards for Murdoch and the other interns are high. Isham hopes that efforts from environmentalists, including Middlebury students, will also feed into legislative measures, both in the United States and abroad. Once in West Virginia, Murdoch will build off of her internship by working with organizations like the Alliance For Appalachia and iLoveMoun-

ains. Following successful models from history as well as recent initiatives like Step It Up and an internship 10 Middlebury students had with 1Sky last Winter Term, at least one meeting has been set before January to plan for the upcoming internship and Murdoch's continued involvement through the spring.

The issue of coal is already on the national radar, having received attention from a number of activists, including Al Gore and both 2008 presidential candidates. As recently as Nov. 9, Gore published an op-ed in the New York Times emphasizing how unrealistic "clean coal" technology is as a viable component for solving the current climate crisis.

"It's a wonderful idea," said Isham, "but as Al Gore pointed out, it's not yet anywhere close to being valid. 'Clean coal' is just hype right now."

The term "clean coal" obscures the magnitude of the issue, as the technology does not currently exist. Both Isham and Murdoch cited a profound lack of research into the idea and asserted that it cannot be viewed as a sensible option given the current speed of climate change.

"Clean coal is not a possibility within the timeline we have to act on global warming," said Murdoch. "We have to do something else. We need to look to wind, solar and innovative technologies we've already developed, and integrate these into an economic system that creates new jobs and lifts a lot of communities out of poverty."

Noah Brautigam '12, who recently wrote a piece on carbon capture and storage for Isham's first-year seminar — titled "Can We Really Do This? Finding Global Warming Solutions" — had similarly mixed feelings about clean coal.

"The way I see it is that clean coal is a political construction. Politicians need to appeal to Appalachia, and to do that they can't say, 'Moratorium on coal' to get elected. I don't

think [clean coal] is the most viable option right now. It's not a permanent solution ... it's a band-aid until there are better solutions found."

Isham emphasized the urgency and importance of engaging the problems of coal in the United States as well as on the global level. With over half of the electricity produced in the United States coming from coal and a rising number of coal plants opening in China — the origin of approximately 25 percent of all current greenhouse gases — coal's status as a cost-effective, readily available energy source will be hard to change.

"Coal is an exceptionally difficult challenge," he said. "The alternatives are to ban using coal for reasons associated with the injustices of it, figure out some technological fix or move as quickly as you can away from coal. But of course you have to have the clean energy alternatives ... By some estimates up to half a million people in China die every year because of the burning of coal. In the United States it's certainly in the tens of thousands."

With language colored by earnest references to other movements, such as abolitionism and Gandhi's movement against British colonial rule, Isham acknowledged the formidable task that lies ahead, one that involves framing coal use as a moral issue.

"If it's not seen as a moral issue, it's just going to be one more in a list of things that we should be doing, and the key is to make it a moral issue that one can't ignore," said Isham. "A great analogy is the abolitionist movement ... The reason they succeeded is because they made [slavery] a moral issue. It's hard for us to imagine that slavery wasn't a moral issue, but it wasn't until they came along ... We want to use the climate change story to say, just as abolitionists did over 200 years ago, that this core engine of our economy can't be defended because of the injustices associated with it."



Angela Evancie

Sierra Murdoch '09.5 will take the spring semester off to facilitate discussion around clean coal technology.

The D-spot

by Dina Magaril

When I was a sophomore, Middlebury spent \$6,000 to host a screening of *Jaws* at the natatorium, raising the pool temperature for the duration of the movie and providing a plethora of colorful inflatable tubes to choose from. I attended the event, and was glad to jump into a warm pool filled with intoxicated peers after spending a cold January night outside. Yet, looking back at this luxurious event, it seems incredulous that a school as green as Middlebury could have supported an event that was not only intrinsically unsafe (drinking and driving, what about drinking and diving?), but more importantly reeked of excess and energy inefficiency.

Of course, this is just one event that stands out in a pretty consistent timeline of energy efficiency at Middlebury (hello, windmill). Ours is one of the leading "green" colleges, and has helped build this reputation by supporting the local economy through agriculture. For all the money the school spends on lavish parties, dinner parties and, most recently, full-on raves, they put a lot of that money back into the local community.

On a smaller scale, one can consider that almost all the salad bar ingredients at our dining halls are local, many coming from Middlebury's own Organic Garden. We get our milk from Monument Farms Dairy, a local establishment, and while I can't speak for the Friday burgers, I know that most of our pork products come from Vermont pigs.

As part of Professor John Elder's Fast Food/Slow Food seminar, I've started to really think about what I put into my mouth, how far the food I buy travels, who made it and packaged it and whether those who produced my food have been treated fairly. I've become highly conscious of eating locally, which luckily is easier to do in Middlebury, VT than in any other city I've lived in. Our local farmers' market allows us to interact with and support local farmers while getting the freshest produce available at a reasonable price.

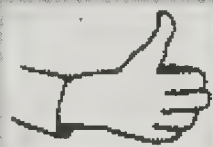
However, eating locally has also forced me to think about eating seasonally which, given my cravings for tropical fruit and tomatoes in every dish, has been a harder transition to make. Tomatoes simply don't grow in the winter and bananas don't grow in Vermont, yet both of these foods are served year round in the dining halls. Have you ever stopped to wonder how much energy is used to transport the bananas and oranges we have in our dining halls from whatever warm climate and borders they cross to get here?

When I go out to restaurants, I've become that annoying customer that asks where the meat comes from. And while it might create a momentary awkwardness with others at the table who don't want to trouble our waiter, it's become important to me whether the steak I order is grass-fed or has eaten a hodgepodge of chemicals and manure for its last meal. I've started to notice the difference in cage-free eggs and those from chickens that have been injected with hormones. My palette may not be refined enough to taste the difference, but knowing where my food comes from has allowed me to either enjoy it more, or reject it entirely. Along with taste, knowledge of our food needs to be considered an essential ingredient in evaluating it.

Recently, I've started shopping almost entirely at the Co-op, and while some items are more expensive than they are at Shaw's across the street, I prefer to spend the extra 50 cents on a bag of spinach that came from a farm a few miles away rather than as far as California.

I feel fortunate to attend a school that not only offers classes on the importance of the food movement in this country, but one that practices what they preach as well. Now if only they would bring back Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

winners



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losers

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Fir Trees

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CA Proposition #2

A newly passed measure bans certain types of animal confinement. Hope you West Coasters don't like veal.

Fiji Water

It costs more than gasoline, isn't renewable, and uses 25 times the amount of water contained in a single bottle.

Fake Plastic Trees

If you want to avoid the naughty list this year, we suggest passing on all things vinyl — clothing, vegetation, etc.

CA Proposition #8

What's more fundamentally American than the rights to privacy and equality? Keep up the protests, citizens.

Organic Garden revitalizes connection with land

By Aylie Baker
FEATURES EDITOR

"Earth, Ourselves, Breathe and awaken, Leaves are stirring, All things moving, New day coming..."

Six years ago, Chris Howell '04.5 read this Pawnee Native American prayer to a crowd huddled on a small plot of land just a quarter mile from the central Middlebury campus. There was a certain prophetic ring to his recitation.

That afternoon, a train of students, professors and community members wended through the fields to the site, following a student with a bag of winter rye over his shoulder. It was Bennett Konesni '04.5 who led them, and as each person stepped forward to toss a few seeds over the freshly tilled earth, a year of careful organizing and petitioning came to fruition. The Middlebury College Organic Garden (MCOG) was born.

"Come back in 10, 15 or 20 years to see the effects of this garden," urged Konesni to those assembled. Six years later, the garden has been transformed into a vital shared space in the community, touching countless lives.

As envisioned by its founders, the garden has become a site of celebration as well as intersection between College and community. Because the College subsidizes the garden's labor, MCOG has a non-competition policy with local farmers. In fact, rather than selling at farmers' markets or local stores, the majority of the garden's produce goes directly to the College's dining halls and local restaurants. The only crop they sell retail is honey; everything else goes at wholesale prices.

What is more, each year, the garden tries out different seed varieties for local farmers in the area. Last year, the grape harvest went to a fledgling vineyard in the area.

The garden also continues to evolve with the help of various student initiatives. One student drew upon his interest in architecture to design and help construct an outdoor classroom on the site. Associate Professor of Geography Anne Knowles and Professor of English and American Literatures John Elder routinely hold class meetings at the garden site, and a group of geography students recently teamed up with a professor to use GIS and Google maps to chart where food is consumed.

"Over the course of the garden's existence I estimate that over 400 students have volunteered at the garden and many more students and community people have come to relax and enjoy the garden's beauty," remarked Jay Leshinski, farmer and adviser to MCOG.

"The point is to enjoy the space — not to feel obligated to work on it," said Leshinski. "There's something for everyone."

In a world in which there is a gaping disconnect between the average producer and the average consumer — where food, appearing seemingly at will, is rendered mysterious and inexhaustible — MCOG has been able to offer participants a different perspective.

The summer internship program, which employs students to work on the garden, has been a transformative experience

for countless students.

Dan Kane '09 was one student who was inspired by his summer experience.

"I want to farm now," wrote Kane in a recent blog posting. "I want to use these very hands-on skills. I learned to promote environmental and social justice wherever I can. I want to be fully engaged in what we're calling the 'food revolution' all because of this space that the MCOG founders envisioned and invited me too."

For Htar Htar Yu '09 of Burma, working at MCOG this past summer was special because it re-affirmed a part of her identity.

"I never thought of myself as a gardener partly because growing plants is so common where I come from," said Yu. "Everyone grows. There is a Burmese saying, 'A place Burmese leave behind is a forest.' And that is true. Where I grew up, we grew the food we ate. We grew all kinds of vegetables and rice."

This past summer, Yu had the chance to plant Burmese sour leaves for the first time in five years.

"It is like I am back to the real me," she said. "I love the feeling of knowing the plants around me are edible. I love picking things with my own hand."

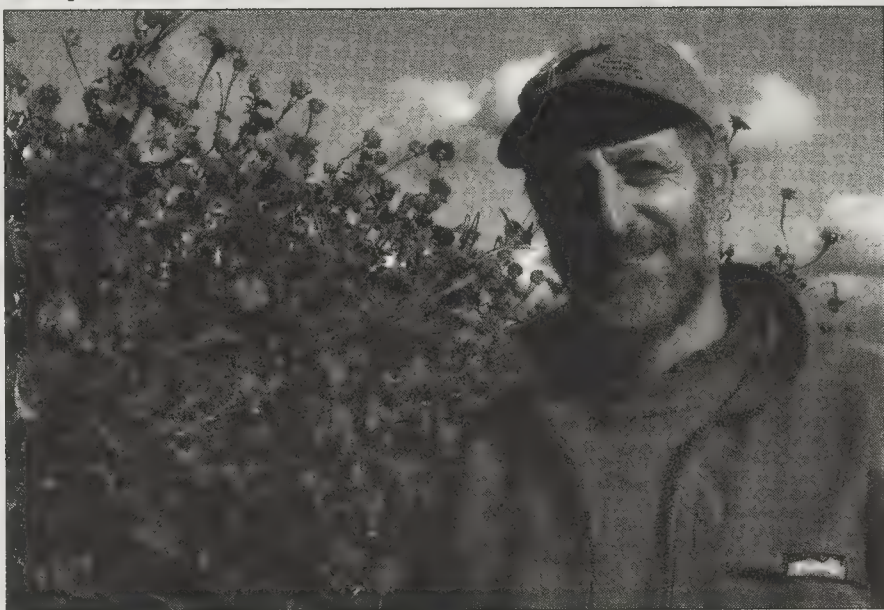
While the principal goal of MCOG is to serve as a common space that is both celebratory and informative, no doubt one of the desired outcomes is also to help assuage the current disconnect people have with food.

"People here think it takes a lot of courage, time and means to have a garden or to plant crops with a capitalistic life style that considers 'time as money,'" explained Yu. "Growing up in an armed conflict area in Burma, when I was young, we had a lifestyle in which 'time was survival' and we still had our gardens. Vermont has great soil. Any plant that can survive in Vermont weather will grow," said Yu, who only hopes "more people in Vermont will have little gardens."

The seeds have been planted. While the garden has not yet reached its 10th anniversary, it has already had

a profound rippling effect on the surrounding College and community. This fall, a group led by Max Kanter '10.5 secured funding and a plot of land to start a community garden here in Middlebury.

"Institutional bureaucracy can be stifling and frustrating, disinterest from students and administrators can be disheartening," said Kane, "but food has that unique power of bringing us together, of equalizing and calming the discourse, of truly setting the table for progress and discussion. At Middlebury, MCOG has certainly been key at setting that table."



Angela Evancie

Jay Leshinski (top), adviser to the Organic Garden, has been instrumental to its success.

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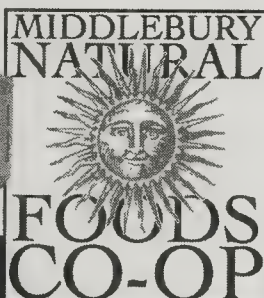
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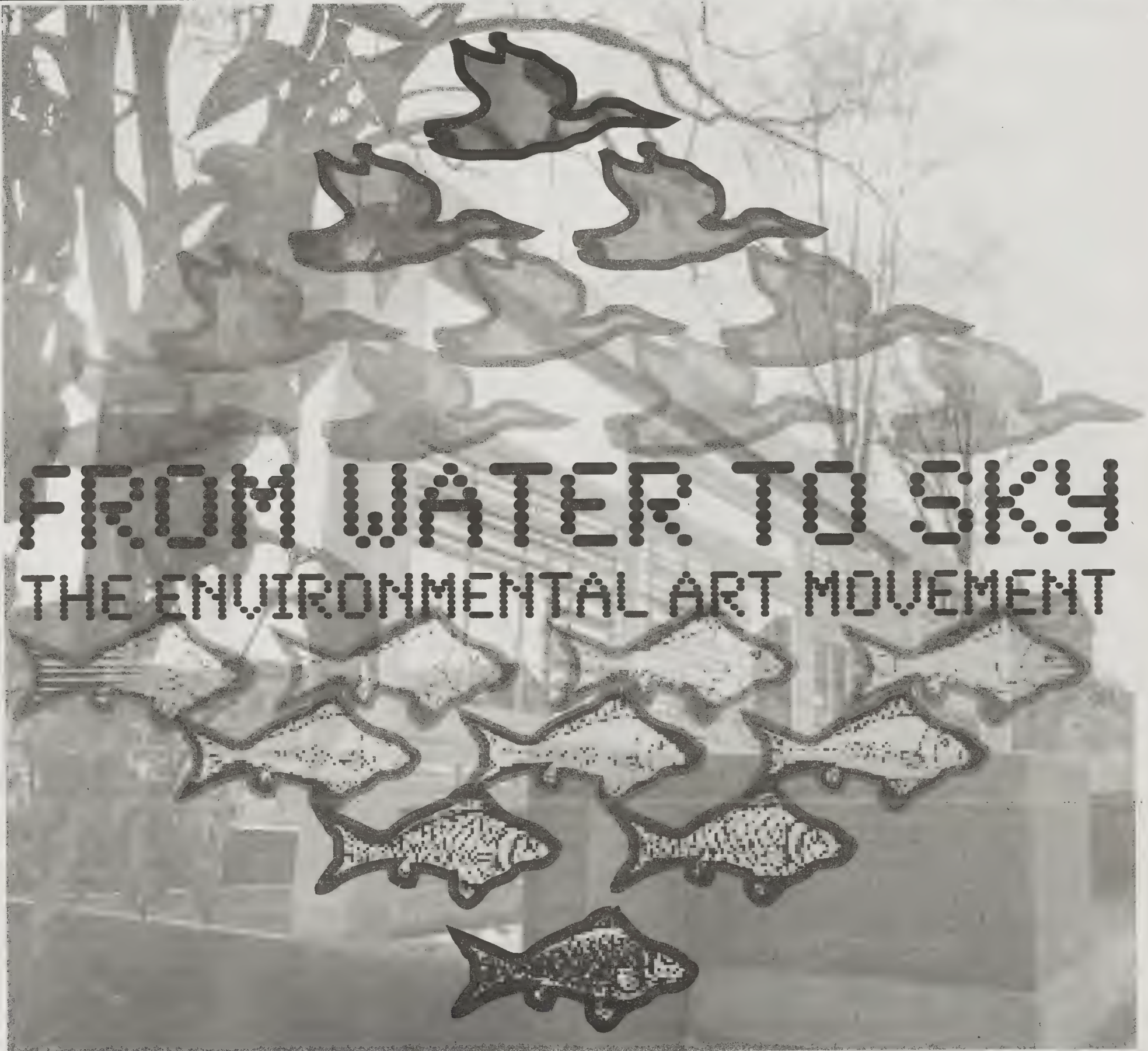
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FROM WATER TO SKY

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ART MOVEMENT

ARTICLE BY MELISSA MARSHALL AND ANDREW THRODAHL...

...PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGELA EVANCIE

New York, Florence, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Hong Kong — Vermont? While Danforth pewter and Frog Hollow pottery cultivate a certain following, the Green Mountain State usually does not top the list of pulsing art hot spots. Vermont, however, has made a notable impression on the quickly expanding and media-savvy environmental art movement — without leaving a footprint, of course.

As diverse and ever-evolving as the natural space it tries to incorporate, environmental art can take the shape of diverse forms, applying itself to a wide array of societal and politically minded pieces. Defined by Director of Tees Valley Art Rosi Lister in her 2003 article, "What Is Environmental Art?", the movement characterizes itself as "art which observes and interacts with the natural environment, reclaims or improves physical environments in the tangible sense or engages with the social environment with activist intent." Despite its relatively small community, Middlebury College has shown commendable dedication to supporting public displays of environmentally friendly sculpture.

In the last couple of years, two Committee on Art in Public Places (CAPP) commissioned works have had bents toward the examination and visual exploration of the natural world. The highly controversial Solid State Change, 2007 and the whimsical So Inclined, 2007 not only brought attention to the natural resources of Vermont, but also placed public art at the center of public opinion.

The equally derogatorily and affectionately termed "The Tire Sculpture," Brooklyn-based Deborah Fisher's large-scale piece situated beside the Franklin Environmental Center at Hillcrest, manipulates recycled material to create a form mimicking the geological structure of Vermont. Keeping the focus on local, American-born Patrick Dougherty's organic

architecture framing the Mahaney Center for the Arts '84 twists silver maple saplings found on Weybridge Street into sculpture that, while not overtly political in essence, encourages the viewer to examine his feelings towards the natural.

These relatively new additions to the College are not the only emblems of environmental art to spot the green around campus. Beginning in the late 1960s, the movement rooted itself in the sculpture of "Land art" and "Arte povera," and while "green" has monopolized the media in the last five years — spearheaded by "An Inconvenient Truth" — its manifestation at Middlebury has remained in the sculptural form. From Joseph Beuys' 7000 Eichen, 1982-1987/1998 to Michael Singer's interactive Garden of Seasons, 2003-2004 and Dan Graham's Two-Way Mirror Curved Hedge Zig-Zag Labyrinth, 1996 one can observe, meditate and even explore the Vermont environment and the art that reflects it.

Hopping one hour north to Burlington, the Fleming Museum at The University of Vermont is hosting "Architectural Improvisation: A History of Vermont's Design/Build Movement 1964-1977" until Dec. 19. The exhibit examines the Vermont architectural Design/Build movement that "focused on a new mediatory role for architecture both in creating community and in the then-newly charged relationship between humans and the environment."

Mobility beyond the collegiate sphere points to the momentum of the movement at a state level. This year The Vermont Arts Council announced a nationwide competition to commission artists to create visual works of art that address issues concerning the future of Vermont — not surprisingly, environmental awareness will be sure to make an appearance. Funded by Vermont philanthropist Lyman Orton, the Art of Action Project stands as a breathing example of the heart of

environmental art: global perspective on a local level. On Jan. 29 and 30, twenty finalists will display their proposals at the Montpelier State House.

"Eco art" could be construed as an oxymoron, since purely decorative art is essentially a waste of materials that could be used for practical purposes. Therefore, one of the central concerns of eco-artists is making functional art that makes a powerful statement about sustainability. It is no surprise then that much of what qualifies as "eco-art" in the state of Vermont is furniture. Most in tune with Rosi's third definition for the movement, this January DigitalBridges2.0 will host the first annual "Snowbuddies Benefit Auction" to support the Addison County Parent Child Center. Twenty local artists — including two Middlebury College students — will auction off hand-painted Adirondack chairs to help raise funds.

On an international scale, one of the most stirring eco-art projects being mounted is "Human/Nature: Artists respond to a Changing Planet," a collaborative exhibition that sent leading artists to especially biodiverse regions to examine both the ecology and culture of the areas. Xu Bing, who visited Middlebury two weeks ago to give a slide lecture on his work, was assigned to Mount Kenya National Park, Kenya. Xu's final installation was a series of local children's drawings based on the Chinese characters for "wood," "woods" and "forest." Other projects included a functional cart for rangers in Komodo National Park, Indonesia and a film of children in the Galapagos reciting Charles Darwin's "On the Origin of Species." The variety within this project alone is testament to the inexhaustible possibilities of "eco-art." "Human/Nature" is currently in San Diego, but will travel around the country in 2009.

Eco lit examines nature's meanings

By Grace Duggan
ARTS EDITOR

On a campus with its largest academic buildings — McCordell Bicentennial Hall and the Donald E. Axinn '51 Center for Literary and Cultural Studies at Starr Library — almost diametrically opposed, the Environmental Studies program makes its physical and intellectual homes between the two, straddling the deeply ingrained divide between the sciences and the humanities. The interdisciplinary nature of the country's oldest environmental program at the undergraduate level allows students to incorporate interests from a variety of fields, including literature and the creative arts — but does it matter?

Every Environmental Studies (ES) major at Middlebury must take "Nature's Meanings," a 200-level class offered each semester that focuses on the evolution of American conceptions of nature. The approach toward the course varies from professor to professor; it is not necessarily a literature course. While both Don Mitchell, Lecturer in English and Film & Media Culture, and Assistant Professor of English & American Literatures Dan Brayton have taught "Nature's Meanings," so have Kathryn Morse and Rebecca Gould, associate professors of History and Religion, respectively. Mitchell, who has been teaching the course since 1994, views it as a unique component of Middlebury's ES major.

"It took me several years to realize it," said Mitchell, "but one of the unusual features of Middlebury's ES program is the more or less central role that it gives to the study of environmental literature, broadly understood."

Although students with a vested interest in environmental literature beyond "Nature's Meanings" can elect to focus in environmental nonfiction or literature — two of the 13 foci currently offered by the department — less than 10 percent of the over 100 declared ES majors or joint majors choose to do so. In general, students choosing one of the two foci tend to opt for environmental nonfiction rather than literature. Despite the discrepancy, Mitchell maintains that those in the field do not weight one genre over the other.

Said Mitchell, "I don't sense that there's any sort of 'hierarchy' within the ES community here that would privilege scientific/scholarly writing — or, indeed, any particular genre of writing — over any other. We've been very successful, in my opinion, at 'letting 1000 flowers bloom.'"

Speaking more broadly, Professor of English & American Literatures Alison Byerly, whose scholarly work has included examinations of landscape depictions in both canonical and non-canonical texts, noted that nonfiction has typically garnered more attention in the field. Brayton had a similar view of the



Nick Sohl

Both fiction and nonfiction have become an important component of the interdisciplinary Environmental Studies major.

divide between the two foci, noting that environmental nonfiction is where "the numbers tend to be, whereas the literature focus tends to be much less in demand."

The overall low number of students concentrating in these two areas receives considerable support from the ENAM department in that the recent trend among scholars has included a growing validation of environmentalism as a lens through which to look at contemporary as well as canonical literature. Brayton, who just last year was named the Assistant Professor of Environmental Literature, is one such scholar.

"There has definitely been a shift in literary study towards reconsidering fiction, poetry and drama and looking for environmental themes," said Brayton. "We're trying to teach a body of literature that can be called environmental straight out on the face of it ... but what is also going on is a reconsideration of canonical English and American literature. How do we read canonical or non-canonical preexisting English and American literature from an environmental perspective? Do we rethink Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' in light of our current environmental crisis? Is that intellectually legitimate? That would seem to be anachronistic, and yet many scholars are saying this is something we have to do."

"It is only over the last decade or two that the labels environmental or ecological or ecocritical have been applied to nature-centered writers or approaches," added Byerly. "The creation of courses that are cross-listed between ENAM and ES has provided an opportunity to look at writing about nature thematically, using cultural, political or scientific contexts as well as purely literary contexts."

beautiful at age eight or nine, when she became a wife. Their inability to control their bladders leaves them feeling as ugly and disposable as trash, to themselves and to those who loved them.

The journey from the countryside to the city almost inevitably requires a long walk, as noted often by the film's protagonists. Many villages are situated several hours on foot from a main road, a situation that the hospital staff describes as impeding the delivery of medical care to more of the population. Dr. Catherine Hamlin, the hospital's co-founder and current director, described one woman who arrived after waiting six years at a bus stop in order to raise the \$20 necessary for the trip. After arriving, the women are interviewed by a male doctor who then tells them he will perform a pelvic exam. For one woman in particular, and probably for many more, this is a moment of panic, connoting exposure and humiliation, but the doctor assumes an understanding that the intrusiveness is for her own good; it is one of the more uncomfortable scenes in the film. For the remainder of their stay, the women live in a hospital ward, undergoing surgery, physical therapy and group education sessions. Though the song of the hospital intones the benefits of holistic improvement, the patient's experience is wrought with anxiety and doubt about the success of the operation as well as the prospects of returning home.

Somehow, "A Walk to Beautiful" managed to escape the myopic gaze of the Academy this past winter — the strange part is that the film went on to win the most prestigious prize from the International Documentary Association for 2007. Under Bucher's direction, the film allows for its protagonists to preach, without raising itself to the pulpit. Many

of the hospital physicians and professional staff believe they are dealing with a development issue — obstetric fistula is the result of underfed and overworked women who are often too small to deliver babies. To make the problem worse, there seems to be an epidemic of forced, child marriages. One attendant describes the patients as "modern-day lepers," while another remarks that psychotherapy is integrated into therapy in order to help the women understand the power and truth about medical treatment. The goal is to transform the hospital into a total institution, providing community when the patients were outcasts, offering love when all was taken away and perfecting an environment suitable for growth. The solution offered by the towering male doctors is quick and lasting, though one must wonder if social rejection can be fixed so easily.

Fortunately, the film is critical of itself in that it subtly reveals certain inconsistencies within the hospital and the contradictions of the mantra of progress and science. Similarly, the film tells several human stories of doubt, fear and anger. These two stories, one of the complexities and challenges of medicine and the other of personal struggle, need not be read independently or in opposition. In a telling scene near the end of the film, the physiotherapist meets with a woman who has undergone surgery and is frustrated with the results. Her attempts to strengthen her bladder are fruitless. The therapist smiles and advises her to keep working and waiting. "Don't be heartbroken," she muses, but the patient is just that. With the gulf between the women suddenly evident, the weakness of the patient's will or the failure of the hospital system is a judgment reserved for the viewer.



for the record by Melissa Marshall

Maybe it all started with the female M&M, but nowadays, green is sexy. Ever the trendsetter, Thom Yorke of Radiohead fame embarked on an eco-friendly tour this summer, choosing to bum about by bus in lieu of celebrity-cache jet setting. Despite the band's efforts to vigilantly monitor their carbon footprint — tracking the differences between small and cityscape venues as well as fuel and food consumption — most of their emissions were accrued by their lifeblood: the fans. Thinking about the sincerity of Yorke's plaintive cry on "My Iron Lung," I never question his good intentions; however, one has to examine the effectiveness of a "green tour." You can't dissuade faithful listeners from traveling to a show, and it seems that the purpose of touring is to hit as many locales as possible — especially in the indie-rock genre where live shows generate the only revenue and reputation for under-the-radar artists. Paradox or not, Yorke's dedication to the environment deserves commendation, but he seems to have shook the eco-world more effectively with his industry shattering move from hard-copy music to purely digital.

Cultivated as more of a screw-you to the record labels, October 2007's name-your-own price download of In Rainbows topsy-turried the music world's economy, but it also had the unforeseen impact of cutting carbon emissions: no plastic for jewel cases, no trees for pamphlets.

Even without Radiohead and after the demise of Napster and the faltering of LimeWire, digital purchase has taken the forefront of how post-Generation-Xers consume music. And while idealism protests feeding the machine of iTunes, other music download services such as mp3fiesta.com (20 cents per download), Rhapsody.com and Zune.net offer alternatives when unable to buy directly from the band's website.

From Pearl Jam's \$100,000 donations to Green Day's eco-friendly YouTube videos to Guster's Reverb tours, the music industry is humming an environmentally friendly tune and backing it up with the banknotes. Even the guitar strings from Barenaked Ladies' concerts are being recycled into fashion-forward jewelry.

In the shadow of famous heads of green-marketed headliners of the likes of Dave Matthews, Jack Johnson and Sheryl Crow, however, is the Minnesota band Cloud Cult. If they sound familiar, it's not because of a Zoroastrian seminar you took last Fall — the sextet took the stage as part of Middlebury's 2007 Energy Symposium.

Formed in the pre-"An Inconvenient Truth" days of the early 90s, Cloud Cult records music in a small studio made from reclaimed scrap materials and packages their CDs in personally-polished reused jewel cases, which are also shrink-wrapped in environmentally benign LDPE plastic rather than the industry-standard toxic PVC. And that's not all — they also donate all profits after expenses to eco-charity efforts. Oh, and they also produce catchy music.

While the rough-around-the edges 2005 Advice from the Happy Hippopotamus is as skip-able as their first two releases and 2008's Feel Good Ghosts (Tea-Partying Through Tomatoes) — very possibly their last album — spins solid but unremarkably, 2007's Meaning of 8 is the proverbial just right. The album incorporates some of the acoustic-driven anthems of high school in true Taking Back Sunday tradition, with "Take Your Medicine" mixed with the Dashboard Confessional endearing earnestness of "Your 8th Birthday" and "Deaf Girl's Song." In short, Meaning of 8 sounds nostalgic on the first listen. Despite the comparisons I have just made, the album is actually good. "2x2x2" highlights the genre mixing of electronic, acoustic and even a hint of hip-hop typical of Craig Minowa's mishmashing style, while "Dance of the Dead" whips out the whimsy of previous, less formulaic releases.

From the twang of Willie Nelson's guitar and the bass of The Roots to the innocuous acoustics of Cloud Cult, the green movement has bent genres and given a facelift to production in the hopes of keeping the world spinning as long as the music.

THE REEL CRITIC

by Jason Gutierrez

MOVIE | A Walk to Beautiful
DIRECTOR | Amy Bucher '87

Early last week, Amy Bucher '87 stood at the front of Dana Auditorium and asked the audience if anyone had heard of obstetric fistula. The response was noncommittal, which Bucher seemed to accept as a challenge, one she and her production team had accepted years ago when they decided to make a film about it. The challenge was to create a film that allowed for people to understand without simply being told and to care without being indicted.

According to the film, obstetric fistula is a condition that affects two to three million women worldwide, predominantly in poorer and rural areas. In Ethiopia, where the film takes place, those suffering from the condition and seeking medical treatment must travel to a specialized hospital in Addis Ababa, the capital and major city. "A Walk to Beautiful" chronicles several women who travel from the rural to the urban in order to find care. The women, filmed in their home villages, are utter outcasts. For many, their husbands have left them for others, they are unable to find employment and they are often forced to live in isolation, apart from their families. Their affliction is ostensibly hygienic, although the ramifications are deep and unsettling — these women are incontinent, in most cases as a result of the failed delivery of a baby. The shame and seclusion, self-imposed and otherwise, render them unable to live as they did before. One woman, who like many others became a young bride, recalls when she was

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Teeing Off



by Peter Baumann

I consider myself qualified to write a sports article. It may not be the best or most entertaining article, but I would certainly consider myself qualified. This is not true when it comes to environmental issues. Between a mother in the oil and gas industry and a father who is firm in his liberal beliefs, I enjoyed many a dinner-table discussion about the effects of man on global warming growing up, but that is about as deep as my environmental knowledge runs.

Which is why I was terrified when I learned we were putting out a Green Issue. First of all I had no idea how I was going to put together a sports page, and second I realized that I was going to have to write about something I was clearly not qualified to be involved in.

As I sat down to get started my mind wandered back to 2007, when *Sports Illustrated* ran an issue focused on global warming. I vividly remember the Letters to the Editor the next week being split down the middle almost perfectly, with half decrying the fact that *SI* turned away from sports to write about the environment, and half applauding the magazine's forward thinking.

Personally I was amongst the former. Global warming is a big issue, I thought, but it is not what I am looking for when I open my *SI*. Leave the sustainability issues to the experts, I said, you tell me how the Tampa-2 defense protects against the intermediate passing game, and I'll let the scientists tell me how the ozone layer protects my skin.

The truth is that in the long run *SI*'s decision to run an issue focusing on global warming was as brave as it was necessary. I have issues with the global-warming movement, but the problem, whether it is man-made, man-aided or simply the earth warming like it has done millions of times in its history is extraordinarily pervasive.

Sports are not immune. Think of our ski slopes — tough to ski without snow. Think of all the crazy things that have happened in sports regarding the climate in the last two years. This year the Cleveland Indians had a series snowed out in April, and we all saw what the elements did to what should have been a fascinating World Series.

My journalistic integrity tells me to question the fact that I am writing this column, or any article that appears in this week's *Campus*. But despite this I am proud of the newspaper I work for. We are clearly out of our element and more than half of us are in no way qualified to be discussing these issues, but we are, and hopefully now you will too.

Don't just say you love the idea of being green, go be green! Stop driving across campus to the dining hall — it's a ten minute walk tops. Stop driving from campus to the athletic facilities (this is the one I am the most guilty of) — it's usually less than ten minutes. Turn off your heater and put a sweatshirt on — trust me, you can handle it.

If *The Campus* truly wanted to put out a Green Issue this week, it meant that Sports had to get on board, so we did. And if our campus truly wants to become Carbon Neutral by 2016 then we as students all need to get on board. It's time to stop talking about sustainability and start acting on it. After all, the sports world is counting on you.

GAC provides insight for athletic dept.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

the renovation of Nelson Arena and the FieldTurf surface installed at Youngman Field.

Youngman Field in particular presented a plethora of issues for the GAC to tackle with.

"On one hand there is a benefit to the environment from switching to a turf field in that we don't have to use any pesticides or gasoline for mowers," says Quinn. "But on the other hand there is not much data on the environmental or health effects of the relatively new FieldTurf surfaces."

After receiving the blessings of Gardner, the GAC and an independent environmental consultant, the department decided to proceed with construction with one caveat: because there was so little data on the effects, Middlebury would conduct its own analysis. Today Middlebury tests the water runoff from the field with an eye towards both health and sustainability issues. The result, as Gardner put it, is that "Bob Ritter's [football] team is playing on the most researched turf in the league."

In addition to their work with Youngman Field, the GAC has been instrumental in several small incremental changes around the athletic facilities. When the Nelson indoor tennis courts were resurfaced, Gardner and the GAC suggested using more sustainable lighting in the building, an idea that Quinn quickly supported.

According to Quinn, it is in little suggestions such as those that the GAC and Gardner make their presence known. While he is forced to look at things through economic, athletic and academic viewpoints, Quinn can rely on the GAC and Gardner to make sure that sustainability is given a voice at the discussion table.

Bob Ritter's [football] team is playing on the most researched turf in the league.

— Andrew Gardner

"These are issues we need to be thinking about, issues that are important," says Quinn. "Of course we are going to expend energy, but having a knowledgeable group of people is a good thing. We are trying to put an environmental lens on everything that we do."

It is also important to note that the department is currently very concerned with economic sustainability as well as environmental sustainability. But while some might see these two entities as competing for the department's attention, Quinn and Gardner recognize that the two are not mutually exclusive. A prime example of this is the department's decision to start putting two teams on buses when traveling to away games at the same location.

"Sustainability can and should have an environmental and economic connotation to it," said Quinn. "We recognized that we could reduce our carbon footprint on the road while simultaneously saving the department some money."

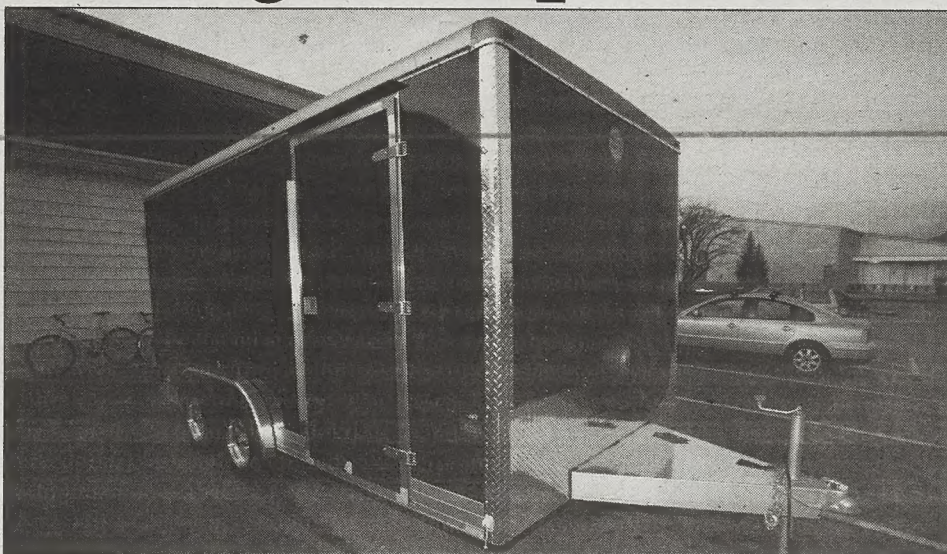
With its long history of athletic prowess and rapidly growing reputation for sustainability, it is only natural that the college would cultivate a successful union between these two forces. And while so far the changes have been incremental, the creation of an Environmental Sustainability Coordinator and the GAC are proof

that the Athletic Department is serious in its focus on environmental issues.

It is Gardner's hope that more colleges and universities will soon follow Middlebury's lead and begin to provide ways in which sustainability can enter into the discourse surrounding athletic discussion.

"Athletic programs have specific administrators who represent women; administrators that represent following the rules," he said. "It seems an inevitability that there should be someone making sure that efficiency and sustainability are being followed."

Ski team saves energy during transportation



Nick Sohl

This trailer carries the ski team's equipment, helping the team reduce its emissions by 85 percent.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

ing in his support."

Coach Gardner noted how in the past, the ski team traveled in two large vans, one of which served merely as a large equipment-storage space. The process was inefficient and burned a large amount of fossil fuels.

The more environmentally friendly vegetable oil truck will allow the ski team to decrease its emissions by an estimated 85 percent from last year while cutting its overall fuel bill by one-third.

Several years ago, the athletic center purchased the truck from Greasecar, a company in western Massachusetts that specializes in auxiliary fuel modification systems that allow all diesel vehicles to run on straight vegetable oil in any climate. This year, coach Gardner went a step further and secured two grants from the Brown Foundation and the Environmental Council to purchase a processing system for the truck and an additional filtering system for the athletic department.

Since pure vegetable oil is too thick to work in the engine unless the oil is heated, coolant lines run through the tank, which keep the oil warm. Each time the truck is used, it begins to operate on the traditional diesel oil before the conversion system switches to vegetable oil. About 20 minutes before the end of the ride, the converter switches back to diesel oil.

Coach Gardner believes that this effort ties into the College's overall com-

mitment to environmental awareness and sustainability. "In every sport, we must have the cognizance of sustainability as an undertaking," he said. "Can we measure the costs, and how do we reduce them?"

According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Web site, in the U.S. we emit 22.2 pounds of carbon dioxide for each gallon of diesel fuel burned. The Middlebury nordic ski team is clearly doing its part to bring that number down.

Snow Bowl sets example

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

from this source, the College heavily supports the use of the ACTR shuttle bus that goes back and forth from campus to the slopes every 90 minutes. An upgrade from snowmaking guns to a more efficient model that requires less diesel fuel also lowers emissions, and five years ago, the lodge was renovated with highly efficient lighting and heating that help keep down emissions.

Nationwide, 34 resorts pride themselves in offsetting 100 percent of their energy use. While that may be the case, Mackey notes that there is a "perception that if you are using green power, you are carbon neutral. That's a deceptive statement to make, because many resorts are only offsetting the carbon produced from their electricity use."

Because the Snow Bowl cuts back on all fronts, rather than just electricity, it stands at the forefront of green ski resorts. Although carbon offsets significantly diminish the carbon

sportsbriefs

Women's lacrosse offsets carbon for team travel

The women's lacrosse team has jumped aboard the College-wide effort to be carbon neutral in the past few years, combining community service and environmental concerns in the form of carbon offsets. Each season the team takes a vote to determine which organization or cause will be the recipient of the program's fundraising efforts, and over the past few years has turned its attention to green firms that specialize in carbon offsets. NativeEnergy, an organization dedicated to helping companies achieve carbon neutrality, "helped us figure out our carbon use and then directed us towards several projects that we could support," said head coach Missy Foote.

The team maintains a personal connection with NativeEnergy as its senior manager of business development, Anne Hambleton '85, is an alumna of the women's lacrosse program and takes a special interest in encouraging the athletic programs at Middlebury to become carbon neutral. The players on the team were first inspired to become carbon neutral on the road to a game a few years ago when team members watched Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* and began to "understand the consequences of inaction," according to Foote. "Our team is committed to this idea."

— Emma Gardner, Sports Editor

footprint of the Snow Bowl, some criticize the process as an easy way out of lowering emissions. Another way for the ski facility to reduce emissions is to cut back on operations such as grooming and snowmaking. Unfortunately, this change would inevitably undermine the ski area as a whole and therefore is an unlikely option for the resort to implement. A more practical idea would be to follow in Massachusetts ski resort Jiminy Peak's footsteps and install a wind turbine on the mountain.

As time passes, the College looks for other ways to cut back on emissions. Increased support of the public bus and using more efficient machines and technologies are direct ways to cut back, while purchasing offsets supplements the leftover emissions. Middlebury's decision to support the idea of a few former students has greatly helped our environment stay clean and will allow us to enjoy yet another fabulous ski season at the Snow Bowl.

GAC lends eco-lens to athletic discussion

By Peter Baumann
SPORTS EDITOR

Two of the things Middlebury students, benefactors and administrators hold dear are the College's commitment to environmental sustainability and its continued athletic success. Perhaps, then, it should come as no surprise that the Middlebury College Athletic Department leads the way among peer institutions in terms of its cognizance of environmental issues.

Two years ago, when Middlebury Athletic Director Erin Quinn '86 was hiring nordic ski coach Andrew Gardner, he noticed a unique opportunity. Because of the size of Middlebury's Athletic Department, every coach must have a secondary responsibility (assistant coach in another sport, for example), and given Gardner's interest and knowledge of environmental issues, Quinn decided to make him the department's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

"After we hired Andrew it became clear that one of his strengths was environmental sustainability,"

said Quinn. "I thought this was a great opportunity given Middlebury's environmental focus and the size of our athletic programs."

With the hiring of Gardner, Middlebury began what has been a two-year movement toward increased understanding of the myriad environmental issues posed by high-level, intercollegiate athletics.

"I think sports is a place where sustainability is often overlooked," said Gardner when asked what his benefits Middlebury receives from having someone in his position. "The biggest advantage is knowing that we are looking at sports through green eyes."

Quinn agrees, noting that while the department is just beginning its focus on issues of environmental stability, the biggest change is that now the department looks at every decision through an environmental lens. While this perspective is not the singular focus of athletic discussions, it is nonetheless a vast improvement over the majority of Division III schools where athletic sustainability is an afterthought.



Grace Duggan

Environmental issues now have a voice at the table during athletic discussions.

In addition to Gardner, Quinn also relies on a Green Athletics Committee (GAC) to help provide sustainability advice and insight to the department. The GAC is composed of members of the facilities, communications, athletics and other departments from around the College and

provides breadth to its discussions. While the lack of recent athletic renovations have lead to a decreased role for the GAC, the committee has still been an important player in the two major projects that Middlebury athletics has undergone in the last year:

SEE GAC PROVIDES, PAGE 23

Ski Truck blazes a green trail

By Jeff Klein
SPORTS EDITOR

In the competitiveness of college athletics, we often forget that the game affects more than just the winning team, losing team, and crazed supporters of both sides. Sporting events carry with them heavy environmental consequences, many of them negative.

Several Middlebury sports teams are upholding their roles as conscious stewards of the environment.

Following on the heels of the crew team, the Middlebury nordic ski team has chosen to ride to all its upcoming practices and competitions this winter season in a truck powered by vegetable oil, as opposed to conventional diesel oil. The crew team has been using the truck for about three years and will regain possession of it for its spring season.

"I just want to emphasize how unbelievably supportive facilities and the athletic department have been [of the idea]," said head nordic coach Andrew Gardner, entering his third season at Middlebury. "Erin Quinn in particular has been amaz-

SEE SKI TEAM, PAGE 23



Nick Sohl

In addition to his job as the head Nordic Ski coach, Andrew Gardner is also the athletic department's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

Snow Bowl becomes carbon neutral

By Sarah Bryan
STAFF WRITER

Three years ago, students in Professor Jon Isham's spring Environmental Economics course were assigned to develop a solution for current environmental problems. Five students, four of whom were members of the Middlebury ski team, sat down to brainstorm ways in which the College could become actively involved in the pressing issue of carbon dioxide emissions. Within a few weeks, the group had organized a plan to make the Middlebury College Snow Bowl a carbon neutral resort. By the

end of the year, their project came to fruition, as the Snow Bowl became the first carbon neutral ski area in the United States.

Located just 14 miles away from the College campus on Route 125, the Snow Bowl consists of 110 acres and 14 trails. It may be a small operation compared to some of the big resorts in the West, but the local feeling and relaxed atmosphere attract students and community members throughout the winter months.

"We are not dealing with as much carbon emission as other large ski areas, like Vail or Keystone out West," said Snow Bowl Manager Pe-

ter Mackey. "It is much easier to track how much we are emitting, and therefore we can look at every aspect of our operation."

With the help of privately owned renewable energy company Native Energy, the Snow Bowl calculates its carbon dioxide equivalent (CDE) emissions for its electricity, fuel and skier travel. Back in 2006, when the project was first presented to the board of the College, the Snow Bowl emitted 679.9 tons of carbon dioxide. Today, it has dropped its number to 557.2 tons. To get a tangible idea of what that looks like, one ton of carbon dioxide fits in a 27-foot cube.

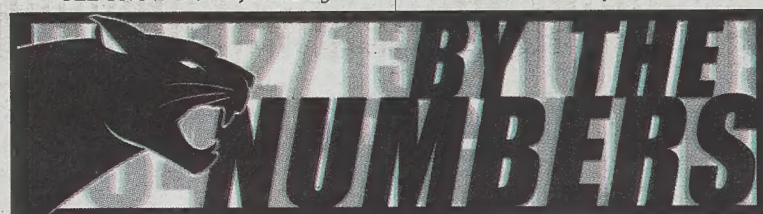
The main method the Snow Bowl uses to maintain its carbon neutral is through the purchase of carbon offsets. NativeEnergy, located in Charlotte, helps the College find renewable energy sources that it can support monetarily. This year, Middlebury can choose between the Brubaker family farm's methane digester in Mt. Joy, Pa. or the Cascade Sierra Solutions Truck Fuel Efficiency project that helps truckers nationwide reduce their CO2 emissions.

In addition to purchasing offsets, the Snow Bowl supports other methods of being environmentally friendly. The largest source of carbon emissions comes from consumer and employee travel to and from the slopes, totaling 204 tons per year. To lower emissions

SEE SNOW BOWL, PAGE 23

The Middlebury Green Eight

Rank	11/13	Team	Campus Comments
1	—	Men's Hockey	Score points for trying to insulate Kenyon Arena's walls with championship banners this decade.
2	—	Women's Hockey	Would be higher if the team played on the old outdoor rink next to McCullough like the men used to. Although, it must be tough come spring.
3	3	Men's Soccer	It's not very green to travel all the way to Florida just to play for a "national championship."
4	—	Skiing	Understands the importance of climate change as well as any; still hoping global warming doesn't turn the Snow Bowl into a tropical island.
5	5	Cross Country	The willingness to run to all its meets is above and beyond the call of duty.
6	2	Rugby	The boys' practice of not showering before dinner is certainly sustainable, if nothing else.
7	—	Swimming	Is their request for the pool temp to be lowered to save energy, or to inspire Michael Phelps-esque times from swimmers who just want to get out of the pool?
8	—	Basketball	Too bad the plan to consolidate the basketball courts and swimming pool this summer didn't work out.



350	The level of carbon dioxide, measured in parts per million, that scientists say is safe to have in the atmosphere.
384	The level of carbon dioxide currently in the atmosphere according to the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center.
350	Number of elite professional athletes that 350.org is trying to recruit to help spread the word about increased levels of CO2.
8	Postponements due to weather during the first week of the 2008 Major League Baseball season.
8	Postponements due to weather during the first weeks between 2002 and 2006, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

this week in sports

Eco-Art
Eco-art movement alive and well at Middlebury, page 20.



games to watch
Men's hockey season opener against Conn. College,
Nov. 21 at 7 p.m.



Lacrosse team offsets
Learn about how the women's lacrosse team offsets the carbon from its travel, page 23.